

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

IPI facility '69 pct. complete'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Progress in the construction of the hotel portion of the Imperial Pacific Resort moved by only 1 percent since Imperial Pacific International (CNM) LLC last reported on the matter.

This is based on the overall construction of the hotel portion of the initial gaming facility, according to Eric Poon, IPI vice president for construction during last Tuesday's Commonwealth Casino Commission meeting at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

See IPI on **Page 4**

Ex-PSS chief's suit vs BOE, members dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Citing the Superior Court's lack of jurisdiction over the issue, Associ-

ate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo dismissed without prejudice yesterday the wrongful termination lawsuit filed by former education chief Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero against the

Board of Education and its members. That means Deleon Guerrero can re-file her lawsuit.

In granting the motion to dismiss,

See EX-PSS on **Page 4**

Igisomar: Status of pot bill unfortunate

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The senator that drafted the cannabis bill believes it is unfortunate that the bill has been delayed anew after the House of Representatives did not push it toward the governor's desk.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), author of Senate Bill 20-62 and its earlier version,

S.B. 19-6, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the House recom-

mitting S.B. 20-62 to prevent further action on the bill is "unfortunate."

He pointed out that it took a considerable amount of time for lawmakers to realize that the bill was revenue generating—and balk at passing it.

In a two-day session, the House
See IGISOMAR on **Page 4**



Igisomar

Kagman farmers soon to be off grid

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Kagman farmers will soon be enjoying uninterrupted power and water supply after the Kagman Agricultural Water Well Photovoltaic Solar Power System facility broke ground yesterday at the Division of Agriculture's station at the eastern side of the island.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres led the groundbreaking ceremony and he was joined by Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony T. Benavente, Office of Grants Management administrator Epi Cabrera, OGM and State Clearinghouse grants specialist Frankie F. Angel, Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conversation chair Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, and other Cabinet and elected officials.

The project, which is funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior under its Energizing Insular Communities Grant Program, cost around \$298,000 and was awarded to Micro-

See KAGMAN on **Page 4**



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres leads the groundbreaking ceremony for the Kagman Agricultural Water Well Photovoltaic Solar Power System facility yesterday at the Division of Agriculture's station near Kagman.

JON PEREZ

INSIDE



EDITORIAL

The fire season is the sort of impacts we have been warned to expect from a warming planet.

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WORLD

Passengers have better chances of survival due to better aircrafts and safety standards.

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LIFE & STYLE

Thieves steal the Swedish royal jewels in a daring daytime robbery.

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Local



Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) poses in a group photo with former Juan N. Babauta and former education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, along with family members, supporters, and some independent candidates outside the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe yesterday morning. Sablan filed his candidacy to seek a sixth term as the CNMI's nonvoting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Sablan files candidacy to seek 6th term

U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) filed yesterday morning his candidacy to seek a sixth term as the CNMI's nonvoting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives, a position that he has been holding since he was sworn into office in January 2009.

"I hereby declare I am a candidate to represent the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in the United States House of Representatives," said Sablan shortly filing his petition for nomination at the Commonwealth Election Commission Office in Susupe. Sablan's announcement

drew applause from former governor Juan N. Babauta, former education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, former governor Carlos Camacho, and several other supporters, family members, and independent candidates.

Babauta and Dr. Sablan are running as independent bets for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively.

"Most of you have been with me since the beginning. When the odds were against us, you believed," the incumbent Delegate Sablan said. "And because you are still here, you must still believe."

Sablan had been in the past either running unopposed or winning by landslides. But this Nov. 6 election, he is facing a younger candidate, Rep. Angel Demapan, from the ruling Republican Party. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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More rain, strong winds expected until Sunday

The Marianas region is expected to experience more showers and thunderstorms, particularly late tonight, Friday, through early Sunday morning, brought by a tropical disturbance and another weaker circulation.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service Guam,

as of 4pm yesterday, a tropical disturbance was centered about 600 miles northeast of Guam and 500

miles northeast of Saipan.

NWS advised the public to

» **Tropical disturbance, weak circulation to mess with weather**

be prepared for strong gusty winds and the possibility of flooding in flood-prone locations.

A monsoon surge associated with this disturbance is

producing widespread cloudiness and scattered showers across the Marianas, said NWS meteorologist Marcus Landon Aydlett.

Aydlett said latest computer guidance keeps this disturbance north of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan the next few days as it interacts with

another weaker circulation northwest of the Marianas.

"Further development with these disturbances will occur north of Saipan over the next few days and should not directly affect the Marianas," Aydlett said.

However, he said, these disturbances will strengthen the monsoon flow over the islands with more showers and thunderstorms, particularly late

tonight through early Sunday morning.

Aydlett said a strong ridge just south of the Marianas over Chuuk and Pohnpei will lift northward toward the Marianas Sunday.

"Exact timing of this will determine when showers and thunderstorms move out and drier weather builds in across the region," he said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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SY 2018-2019 Kick-Off Schedule



Saturday, August 4

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Thursday, August 9

First Day of School

7:30 am start; 11:30 K4 dismissal; 3:00 pm K5-12 dismissal
Parking for employee and student drivers is on the south side of the gym.

Wednesday, August 15

Parent Orientation & Open House

5:00 pm—7:00 pm
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CHCC establishes Physical Activity Council

The Non-Communicable Disease Bureau under the Division of Public Health Services at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in collaboration with the Office of the Governor, held a strategic planning meeting at the Pacific Islands Club last June 18 and 20.

At this meeting, a variety of government agencies, private businesses, faith-based

groups, non-profit organizations, and community members gathered to understand the severity of NCDs and how they can play a role in reducing the burden it causes in the CNMI.

The Physical Activity Council is recruiting members and invites the public to attend their inaugural meeting on Aug. 7, 2018, at 8:30am at CHCC.

This meeting is intended to build the Physical Activity Council and present its strategic plan to increase participation in exercise from 67 percent to 77 percent.

RSVP your attendance by emailing Physical Activity Council chair Samantha Birmingham-Babauta, at samantha.birmingham-babauta@dph.gov.mp. (PR)

Senator: CPA incentive program would lead to transparency

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Saipan senator believes the Commonwealth Ports Authority's adoption of an incentive program for airlines would lead to more agency transparency.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) noted yesterday that, with the CPA board committee adopting an incentive program for airlines last Friday, he might finally get answers on his questions of transparency and policy.

"[CPA] has been working on [an incentive program] for a long time," he said, adding that with the new program, which he did not elaborate, CPA's adoption of the program promotes transparency.

"...The most important aspect of the program's adoption is that it is written and transparent," he said, noting that he always asked CPA about their policies. "Now that it is written and transparent, we all know what the rules are and what the guidelines are. From

there, it helps the community, the investors, and it also helps policymakers know where they are going."

Igisomar, in a previous Senate session, stated that he wished to conduct an oversight hearing on CPA management after Cape Air under United Airlines pulled out of Rota after the latter severed ties with the former in Micronesia. Igisomar previously believed that Senate Bill 20-50, which he introduced, would have incentivized flights in the CNMI.

EX-PSS

From Page 1

Govendo determined that the board is covered by the Government Liabilities Act and that Deleon Guerrero failed to comply with the procedural requirements of the GLA.

Govendo dismissed the case

in its entirety until such time that Deleon Guerrero complies with GLA's procedural requirements.

The judge noted that the issues were poorly briefed by both parties. He encouraged the lawyers to familiarize themselves with the GLA.

Brien Sers Nicholas is counsel for Deleon Guerrero. Special assistant attorney general

Tiberius D. Mocanu is counsel for the Office of the Attorney General. Mocanu used to be a legal counsel for the Public School System.

Deleon Guerrero sued BOE and its members for allegedly terminating her last October as PSS commissioner in violation of due process. She accused the defendants in conspiring to violate her

CAO to hold outreach in September

The Carolinian Affairs Office will be reaching out to students on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting in the first week of September to promote the indigenous culture of Chamorros and Carolinians.

CAO executive director John Tagabuel intends to highlight both cultures by bringing to schools arts and crafts that showcase the cultures and customs of Chamorros and Carolinians.

However, Tagabuel says they still need to meet with Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies director Jonas Barcinas to obtain the help of bilingual teachers.

He said other departments such as the Arts Council, Division of Youth Services, and Women's Affairs Office are ready to help implement the program initially.

Last year, students were

introduced to the storytelling and folk tale traditions of the

Chamorros and Carolinians. (Fahim Uddin)

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality has red-flagged three Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Affected sites are Bird Island, Grotto Cave, and Ladder Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal

indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

BECQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact BECQ at 664-8500. (PR)

IGISOMAR

From Page 1

voted to recommit S.B. 20-62, even after the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operation removed several provisions that were deemed revenue-generating provisions.

The House legal counsel, however, maintained the position that the bill as it came out of the Senate contained revenue-generating elements that should only be introduced in the House, according to the CNMI Constitution. Ultimately, the House unanimously decided to recommit the bill to the JGO committee led by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) and reintroduce the same bill, including the taxes and fees associated with the legalization and consumption of cannabis.

"[S.B. 19-6 and S.B. 20-62] went through all this time [research-wise]. I am sure we could have engaged the House to initiate that bill a long time ago," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune*. He added that he had no problems with the House's decision to shelve the bill since Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) would be championing the House version of the cannabis legalization and regulation bill.

"As much as possible for transparency and [to comply] with the Open Government Act so that people are not offended, just cite in the findings S.B. 19-6 and S.B. 20-62...so that it can show this bill has gone through...[proper] procedures," Igisomar reportedly requested Deleon Guerrero after Tuesday's session.

Igisomar said the request was made so that the bill would not be treated as a new one.

IPI

From Page 1

When asked how he came up with the 69-percent completion rate, on the methods used in order to come up with the percentage ("Is it 69 percent as budgeted or is it the physical structure that's 69 percent complete?" asked CCC commissioner Alvaro Santos), Poon said: "The budget, the percentage is based on the construction...only physical."

"The work that we have done so far—the foundation and basic infrastructure, along with the calculations and schedule of our project—we don't have a special tool to calculate, unless I actually talk to my team," Poon added.

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, in an interview, said the commission just wanted to know the meaning of the 69-percent completion rate.

"We noticed that they keep saying it is 69-percent complete. And we want to know what they mean by that. What is that 69-percent rate? Is it facility wise or funding wise? Is it 69 percent ready for the hotel opening or when it is expected to open if it's only 69 percent complete? If they would know, how much money is needed to finish the project?" They would have an idea how much [time and money] will be needed,"

added Deleon Guerrero.

He said that they also wanted to get a copy of IPI's letter of extension request to the CNMI Lottery Commission and the CCC would be present when they meet anytime next week. The Lottery Commission was supposed to meet yesterday.

"We'll be present to hear out what their [IPI] request. We're under one government and at the end of the day we want to make sure the CNMI is well served," said Deleon Guerrero.

Slow progress?

Poon also informed the commission that their current construction is focused on three areas: the resort hotel, the north courtyard or the front landscape, and the hotel tower and other façade installations.

"Everything is moving forward and on target to complete by the end of this year. We put in another 10 percent in the resort hotel's building façade. But for us, this is not fast enough; hopefully we can improve it in the near future," said Poon.

He added that there's a total of 1,443 workers and 75 management staff at the construction site last month, where they are finishing up the hotel interior and the main lobby's stonework on the floor.

Poon said that they are also pushing to address three critical issues: the Casino License Agreement extension package,

the external roadwork that they plan to complete by the end of the month, and the installation of the dragon chandelier.

A special team from a Czech Republic-based firm will install the dragon chandelier, which also designed and manufactured the fixture. All the materials and other parts have arrived on Saipan and are already at IPI's warehouse.

Poon said local contractor M15 Architecture Co. Inc. had been doing all inspection jobs before sending their reports to the Department of Public Works for review and their records. Pacific Rim is the general contractor.

Other concerns

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has expressed concern on the issue that IPI has not yet settled its dues with GPPC, which worked on the electrical and mechanical side of the still to-be-finished hotel.

He said that IPI has settled its dues to the government and it is important for them to do the same with companies that they owe. "Of course, there's always concern if a company has not been paid or not being paid. I don't know the entire issue between them but don't get me wrong, all bills have to be paid."

"Whatever their relationship is, if it's before the court or simply stating to go on public record that they are owed and not being paid. At the end of the

day, my belief is, if you work, then you have to be paid."

He cited the case of the government where the money, through the taxes, paid by IPI, are used to fund its various programs. "Our deficit got [down], there's \$80 million in land compensation that we paid about half of that already in terms of settlement and some other issues. In reality, bills have to be paid."

Torres said that he would also review IPI's extension request. "Our concern is the viability of the industry. Our concern is to make sure the necessary adjustments to finish the hotel."

"Let's face it, all of us want to see the project to be finished. But along the way, we want to see that there's due diligence as to why we're giving them the extension," added Torres.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, in a separate interview, said they also monitor all businesses and work sites for any irregularities. "We're doing inspections and we do monitor businesses, not just IPI."

She added that her department is also set to meet with Pacific Rim officials to get updates on their concerns and other issues. "We have to look at everything, I also heard undesirable workers that were let go because of their failure for a particular substance test or attendance issues. We have to look at both sides of the issue."

KAGMAN

From Page 1

nesia Renewable Energy Inc., represented by vice president Jeff Voacolo. The total grant was around \$330,167.

Torres congratulated Cabrera and his team at OGM for seeking out the project's fund grants. "\$300,000 is a lot of money, yet I know we still have a long way to go but this is definitely the first step for us."

"I want to acknowledge Dr. Dela Cruz as the newly appointed chair of the [Saipan] Farmers Association and the [SNISWC]. Our office is here to assist you. It is indeed a remarkable day for us with this project."

He also thanked Voacolo and MRE for being the partner for the project. "I was in Pohnpei and I saw that he also partnered with the mayor of Kolonia. This just shows that we have the right and good partner."

"I'm excited for the completion of the project and other projects will come from the Grants Department. [This] would help lessen the challenges faced by farmers here in Kagman and it would also help them with their production."

Torres said the project would help Kagman farmers with their water supply. "The solar panels are a great step to address and assist the farmers here and it would give

them a more stable water supply. They would also be off the [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] grid and that would lessen their power cost."

He thanked Dela Cruz, OGM, DLNR, and CUC for collaborating to address the needs of the farmers in Kagman.

Cabrera said the money for the project took longer to be released, as they needed to secure the proper permits. "The project went to the proper procurement process. And we applied for the grant in 2016. However, it hit some snags due to the permitting process. There's a lengthy process, with the local permits, and we have to wait for federal permits to be issued before we can get local permit. Completion date for the project is 210 days."

Grants specialist Frankie Angel said the project is the brainchild of their office and the DLNR's Division of Agriculture, headed by director Manny Tenorio and his team, with a signed memorandum of understanding with CUC and SNISWC.

"The project would produce enough power to well systems KS1, KS2, KS3, KG8, and KG20. It will consist of an 18,000-watt system and the project would cut the utility cost of the farmers and at the same time increase their energy efficiency; that would ensure steady water supply."

Man gets suspended sentence for domestic violence

A 22-year-old man, who pleaded guilty to hitting and injuring his girlfriend during an argument inside a car in Tanapag, was given a suspended sentence.

Elden Michael Dela Cruz was sentenced last week to one year in prison, all suspended, for the offense of domestic violence: assault and battery.

The remaining charge of domestic violence: disturbing the peace was dropped.

In a written order, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio placed Dela Cruz on one year of probation and required him to complete batterer's intervention counseling, submit to anger management counseling, and complete 150 hours of community service.

During his probation, Dela Cruz is prohibited from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages and controlled substances.

Dela Cruz was ordered to pay \$319 in restitution to the victim, \$100 fine, \$25 in court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

According to police, Dela Cruz hit the victim on Aug. 7, 2017, on Saipan.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. prosecuted the case.

Defense counsel Janet H. King said the case involves an allegation between a young couple who were in a year-long relationship, and that the defendant allegedly assaulted the girlfriend in his car at her home in Tanapag.

King said the girlfriend alleges that Dela Cruz hit her during the argument and caused physical injuries.

The girlfriend claimed that Dela Cruz had been abusive throughout their relationship.

King said that on that day of Aug. 7, Dela Cruz drove his girlfriend to her parents' home in Tanapag.

The driver, Dela Cruz, parked his car in front of his girlfriend's parents' residence. The couple had an argument, prompting her mother to come out and ask if everything was all right. The girlfriend told her mother everything was fine. But the couple continued to argue.

King said that during the argument, the girlfriend hit Dela Cruz in the face and grabbed his arm and bit him. Dela Cruz then tried to push her out of the car.

King said Dela Cruz did not initiate the altercation and he filed a complaint against his girlfriend. She said after the girlfriend learned about it, she filed a complaint against Dela Cruz.

King also said Dela Cruz has no history of violence and no charges or arrests of any kind. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Kilili adds in-state tuition for NMC grads to higher ed bill

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has included his plan to give Northern Marianas College graduates in-state tuition, when they go to a U.S. public university for a bachelor's degree, as part of the new Aim Higher Act.

Aim Higher lays out the federal policies for higher education that Democrats intend to enact in the next Congress.

Sablan is an original co-sponsor of the Aim Higher Act, H.R. 6543, which already has 49 co-sponsors.

"Expanding educational opportunity for Marianas college

students is now the second goal in my Agenda 116," Sablan said.

Agenda 116 is Sablan's legislative to-do list for the next, 116th Congress.

"The prospect of a Democratic majority means my NMC proposal is now part of our national agenda. Democrats are going to make sure every student in America can get a degree or credential that leads to a rewarding career, debt-free," Sablan said.

Republicans on the House Education Committee have their own higher education bill. But it cuts nearly \$15

billion from student aid and shifts federal dollars toward low-quality, for-profit schools that often leave students with debt and no degree. So far, Republicans cannot get enough votes to pass this flawed bill, even though they have the majority in the House.

With Democrats expecting to be in the majority next year, Sablan is also expected to have a lead role in passing the Aim Higher Act. With 10 years of seniority, the Marianas congressman is in line to be a subcommittee chairman in the House Education Committee.

Sablan has made education his priority in Congress. His work is already helping many students at NMC attend debt-free.

Sablan was an original co-sponsor of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, Public Law 111-148, in 2010. The Act raised federal Pell grants and made more students in the Marianas and nationwide eligible for this tuition assistance.

As a result, over one thousand NMC students—81 percent of enrollment—now receive Pell grants. The average grant of \$4,289 fully covers NMC tuition and fees.

"Call it 'piggybacking' or 'getting in on the ground floor,' we proved over and over that putting Marianas-specific language in important national legislation, when it is written, is the sure way to get the changes my constituents want," Sablan said.

Sablan previously included a funding formula change for island elementary and secondary schools in the Every Student Succeeds Act, Public Law 114-95. And he included \$32.5 million to move the Marianas closer to the national food stamp program in the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79.

Because of Sablan's work, Marianas schools received an extra \$4.1 million this year, which will continue annually. And food stamp recipients in the Marianas are now getting U.S. level benefits.

Earlier in this Congress, Sablan offered his federally-supported tuition proposal in committee, as an amendment to the Republican higher education bill. Even though the amendment covered American Samoa Community College graduates and that territory is represented in Congress by Republican Amata Radewagen, Republicans defeated the Sablan amendment.

But Sablan decided to keep American Samoa in the Democratic Aim Higher Act and make it part of his Agenda 116. "As a Pacific Islander, I feel a responsibility to all of the people of the Pacific Islands," Sablan said. "That responsibility is larger than politics. I do not want students in American Samoa left behind."

In the statement introducing

the Aim Higher Act, Democrats repeated Sablan's vision of inclusion: "All students, regardless of whether they reside on the continental U.S. or its territories, should have an opportunity to pursue an affordable four-year college degree."

"The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa have substantially limited academic offerings for students seeking higher education. Each has just a small public college, providing primarily certificates and associate degrees, which hinders many students in these territories from pursuing a college degree beyond two-years."

Sablan's Tuition Assistance Grant Program in the Aim Higher Act authorizes \$5 million to cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition costs for students who graduate from American Samoa or Northern Marianas community colleges with two-year degrees. It is modeled after an existing program for students from the District of Columbia.

The first announced plank of Sablan's Agenda 116 was the Northern Mariana Islands Workforce Stabilization Act, H.R. 6578, introduced on July 26. The Stabilization Act gives permanent status in the Marianas to foreign investors, who first came to the islands under Commonwealth immigration law. It also gives permanent status to long-term workers, as defined in Sablan's U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115-218, signed on July 24.

Sablan will be releasing more of his Agenda 116 over the coming weeks. (PR)



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Tour van burglarized

A tour van was burglarized as four Chinese tourists and a tour guide were having diving lessons at a Lau Lau Bay dive spot last Monday.

A female tour bus driver, escorted by police officers, used a tracking system that led to the recovery of stolen items, except \$5,000 cash, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae yesterday.

Rae said police officers responded Monday at 6:01pm to a reported burglary and theft incident at a Lau Lau Bay dive spot. According to the tour bus driver, the van/bus arrived at the spot for diving lessons at 3pm, with four Chinese tourists. The tourists left their belongings in the van.

At 6pm, the tour guide went back to the van and noticed the middle windows had been

shattered, and the customers' belongings had been stolen.

Police officers met with the tour bus driver near the intersection of Kagman Church.

Using her phone, the driver tracked the victims' stolen phones and recovered the first phone near the church.

Officers escorted the driver as she used the tracking system and located the second phone near Railroad Drive in San Vicente. In that area, all four stolen bags were recovered, including cell phones, wallets, passports, clothes, jewelry, and personal documents. At total of \$5,000 cash was not recovered.

As of Wednesday, police were still gathering information about the suspect's identity.

Many tourists have been victimized by burglars and robbers on Saipan in the past few months. (Ferdie de la Torre)

» Tour bus driver, escorted by cops, uses tracking device to recover stolen items, except \$5,000 cash

New year, new opportunities

Mount Carmel School is all set to launch the 2018-2019 school year with a set of new opportunities, including new teachers, new courses, and new programs.

While work has been ongoing throughout the summer to prepare for the new year, preparations ramped up with this past week's professional development sessions. Led by vice principal Barbara Merfalen, the sessions focused on classroom management, analysis of student achievement data from the last school year, and enhancements to the school's student information management system.

"Ongoing training is so important in this profession, where we have to keep abreast of current research in learning and behavior, and apply that to the classroom," Merfalen said. "If we want what works best for our students, we need

to commit ourselves to professional growth."

The professional development sessions also gave the faculty a chance to welcome new teachers, including Kimberly Tudela who will teach third grade, Tasia Sablan who will be a kindergarten teacher aide, and Sarah Johnson who will teach high school English.

Johnson, who holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from American University and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Writing and Rhetoric from George Mason University, will teach freshmen and Senior Composition, as well as a new course, Creative Writing. The course will be a first for the school with two sections open to high school students.

In addition, the school will offer another new course, Introduction to Media Commu-

nications, which will be taught by school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero. The course will introduce students to various aspects of media communication, including journalism, public relations, marketing, strategic social media, Web design, graphic design for publication, and videography.

The school will also launch a number of new programs for the school year. The school's information management system has been enhanced to include new human resource processes, such as digital time sheets. As reported recently, the school will also open the new year with 548 solar panels.

The first day of classes for school year 2018-2019 will be on Thursday, Aug. 9. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmel-saipan.com. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMIS open house this Saturday

The Northern Marianas International School will have an open house on Saturday, Aug. 4, from 9am to 11am at the Marianas Business Plaza, formerly the Nauru Building in Susupe. Parents who have children enrolled at NMIS and those who wish to learn about NMIS services are invited to meet our teachers and staff and gain information about the

school's philosophy, low tuition and calendar of activities. For more information, contact 234-6647/8. (PR)

SSHS students, parents' orientation

Saipan Southern High School will have its school year 2018-2019 orientation for students and parents on Aug. 7. For 9th graders and new students, it will be at 9am; all returning students will be at 1:30pm. (PR)

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Eight Northern Marianas College students recently received their certificates of completion of the Nursing Assistant Certificate Program. They are joined by, from left to right, Frankie Eliptico, NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement; Johnny Aldan, Nursing instructor; Rosa Tudela, NMC Nursing Department chair; Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC president; Arthur de Oro, director of NMC's Community Development Institute; and Queanna Sablan, program manager of CNMI Health Education Center. **NMC**



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8 NMC students complete summer nursing program

Eight Northern Marianas College students completed the six-week Nursing Assistant Training Program yesterday and received their certificates of completion in a ceremony attended by NMC leaders and the students' families.

The certificate program prepares entry-level nursing assistants to provide basic nursing care to the elderly, ill, and persons with disabilities in long-term care, hospitals, clinics, schools, and home health settings.

"We are very proud of the students who have successfully completed this six-week intensive program," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "Their training will help to expand local nursing workforce capacity."

The students' successful completion of the Nursing Assistant Certificate Program makes them eligible to take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program Competency Examination through the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Nursing.

Once the students pass this exam, the board will license them as Certified Nursing Assistants and they will be placed on the NMI Board of Nursing Registry for nursing assistants. They can practice as a CNA in the CNMI or U.S. mainland.

Rosa Tudela, NMC Nursing Department chair, encouraged the students to continue their training and pursue their associate and bachelor's degree in nursing.

"These students are all very promising and I look forward to seeing them as they help patients in our local health care facilities," said Tudela. **(NMC)**



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GRMC doctors report health risks of vaping

DEDEDO, Guam—Four physicians from Guam Regional Medical City had just published an article outlining the dangers of vaping in *Case Reports in Pulmonology*.

In their case report, Dr. Michael Agustin, along with Dr. Michele Yamamoto, Dr. Felix T. Cabrera and Dr. Ricardo Eusebio, discuss their findings based on the case of a patient with significant bleeding in the lungs, possibly linked to vaping.

An excerpt from the report states, "We report a case of young male with respiratory failure and later found to have diffuse alveolar hemorrhage syndrome (bleeding into the

lungs) that is likely induced by aggressive vaping. After Mayo Clinic confirmed our suspicion upon further review of our lung biopsy, we then submitted the case for publication. This is the first published case report (in the literature) on alveolar hemorrhage

» First published case report about alveolar hemorrhage & vaping

secondary to vaping." The report also notes the increasing popularity of vaping and electronic cigarettes and the lack of research regarding any associated health-related risks. It further notes that while vaping was designed as a safer alterna-



Agustin



Eusebio



Yamamoto



Cabrera

tive to smoking regular cigarettes, there is no evidence

to support this and suggests that based on their findings,

innovative technology de-

signed as a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes."

Case Reports in Pulmonology is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes case reports in all areas of pulmonology, prevention, diagnosis and management of pulmonary and associated disorders, as well as related molecular genetics, pathophysiology, and epidemiology. (PR)

FHB reports Q2 finances, declares dividend

HONOLULU, Hawaii—First Hawaiian, Inc., has reported financial results for its second quarter ended June 30, 2018.

"We are very pleased with our solid performance in the second quarter," said Bob Harrison, FHB chair and chief executive officer. "We

had strong earnings driven by good loan growth, continued margin expansion, and excellent asset quality. Our profitability metrics continued to improve and our capital ratios remained strong. Additionally, during the quarter, BNP Paribas reduced its ownership in First Hawaiian below 50 percent with a successful offering of 16.8 million shares in connection with which we concurrently repurchased approximately 3 million shares."

On July 25, 2018, the company's board declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.24 per share. The dividend will be payable on Sept. 7, 2018, to stockholders of record at the close of business on Aug. 27, 2018.

Net income for the quarter ended June 30, 2018 was \$69.1 million, or \$0.50 per di-

luted share, compared to \$68.0 million, or \$0.49 per diluted share, for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, and \$56.9 million, or \$0.41 per diluted share, for the quarter ended June 30, 2017.

Core net income for the quarter ended June 30, 2018 was \$69.7 million, or \$0.50 per diluted share, compared to \$68.3 million, or \$0.49 per diluted share, for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, and \$57.2 million, or \$0.41 per diluted share, for the quarter ended June 30, 2017.

Net interest income for the quarter ended June 30, 2018 was \$141.4 million, an increase of \$1.7 million compared to \$139.7 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, and an increase of \$10.1 million compared to \$131.3 mil-

lion for the quarter ended June 30, 2017. The increase in net interest income compared to the first quarter of 2018 was due to higher average balances and yields on loans, lower average balances of time deposits and higher yields on interest bearing deposits in other banks, partially offset by higher rates on interest bearing deposits, lower average balances and yields on investment securities, and lower average balances of interest bearing deposits in other banks.

The increase in net interest income compared to the second quarter of 2017 was due to higher average balances of loans and higher yields on loans, interest-bearing deposits in other banks, and investment securities, partially offset by higher rates on deposits. (FHB)



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Lin's Air New Energy Saver DC Inverter Split Type A/C 18,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 18.3 FREON R410	\$1,198	\$998
Lin's Air New Energy Saver DC Inverter Split Type A/C 24,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 20.9 FREON R410	\$1,598	\$1,398
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Lin's Air New Energy Saver DC Inverter Split Type A/C 36,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 17.3 FREON R411	\$1,998	\$1,798
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Lin's Air Brand New Energy WINDOW Type A/C 8,000BTU 115V 60Hz FREON R 410A	\$348	\$298
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18.0 CU. FT REFRIGERATOR 115v 60HZ	\$928	\$828
13.8 CU. FT UPRIGHT FREEZER 115v 60HZ	\$898	\$798
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Sablan considers himself an 'underdog' in this election

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) considers himself an underdog as he is running against a popular political party this time.

Sablan had been in the past either running unopposed or winning by landslides. But this Nov. 6 election, he is facing a younger candidate, Rep. Angel Demapan, from the ruling NMI Republican Party.

"They have money. That one I was told in the last election... that this election will be about money. And I don't have that kind of money," he said after filing his candidacy papers yesterday at the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe.

As the underdog, Sablan said he needs to do what he has always done: knock on doors and visit people in their homes.

He said his visit is not so for because of the votes, but because he could hear the people's concerns, what's in their mind, what are the things that he needs to do.

"I cannot do my job representing the people here if they



don't tell me what I need to do," Sablan said.

The 63-year-old Sablan said he is going 10 years of his term, but that there are still things that he would like to do, such as the Health Equity and Accountability Act, a joint project of members of the Congressional Tri-Caucus, which would make the Medicaid program in the Northern Marianas a full Medicaid program.

He also cited working on the higher education bill that includes language that would provide federal tuition aid to graduates of the Northern Marianas College.

Sablan also mentioned his legislation that he introduced

in U.S. Congress that seeks to provide a CNMI-only immigration status to long-term foreign workers—called legacy workers.

Sablan said the number of CNMI-Only Transitional Worker permits will decrease every year by 500 and so it is very important that legacy workers be given this long-term status.

"Because if they are able to stay here it is my hope and my prayer that their children who are some of our best and brightest will also make this home and that they would be here continue contributing to our community and economy," he added.

DONATION TO DISABILITY SPORTSFEST

A generous cash donation of \$4,000 by Bank of Guam to the Lady Diann Torres Foundation will benefit entirely the upcoming CNMI Disability Sports Festival slated for Aug. 9-10 at the Marianas High School gymnasium. First lady Diann Torres and sportsfest coordinating members Jennifer Castro and Floyd Masga received the donation from BOG's Saipan branch president Marcie Tomokane and her team. For information about the CNMI Disability Sports Festival or to register to participate, contact Nick Gross at nick.gross@cnmipss.org or email LDTF at ladydiantorres@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

K-5 Childhood Development Center

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*Documents Needed:

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*Extra Services Offered: Summer School

Summer School 2019: June 10 – July 18, 2019
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*Other:

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Babauta: Tourism in still NMI's bread and butter

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former governor Juan N. Babauta said that people want to see a more transparent government and that people want to have a government that is more accountable.

Babauta and former education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan filed their candidacies as independent candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, before the Commonwealth Election Commission Monday morning. The election will take place on Nov. 6.

Babauta said there is a

growing concern—generally across the board—about the financial viability of the casino industry here.

“There’s a lot of concerns being said and talked about in the community about non-payment of wages, the contractors having difficulties being paid, vendors being paid, payroll being met,” he said.

Babauta said these are the kinds of concerns that are widely known throughout the community.

“We just want to ascertain the long-term financial viability of the industry,” he said.

If elected, Babauta said, he and Dr. Sablan want to address

those concerns and work with the industry to see how they can help out.

Babauta said that tourism is still the CNMI’s No. 1 industry and that it should remain the centerpiece of economic development here in the CNMI.

“Tourism is our bread and butter,” he said, disclosing that their plan is to work on a better quality tourism industry. He said they want to bring quality tourists here. “Quality as opposed to quantity,” said Babauta, adding that he has always been an advocate of bringing in quality tourists.

“We want to promote the CNMI as a quality product,



Former governor Juan N. Babauta said that people want to see a more transparent government and that people want to have a government that is more accountable.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

making and turning our key tourist sites better sites to visit, promote it as a better quality product in terms of

the overall quality for our tourists to come and visit and enjoy,” he said.

Dr. Sablan said she is running because she and Babauta want to work for the CNMI. Sablan said they have walked the villages and talked to many people and that they’ve seen the kind of change that people are asking for.

“It is something that we all need to do. Go out there and see what the people are really

talking about,” she said.

Foremost in her desire to run, Sablan said, is desire of people wanting to see change in their community.

Sablan said that, as Babauta had stated, they are looking to make sure that this government is really for the people and by the people. “It’s not just that we’re making decisions for ourselves, but for the people and by the people and with the people,” she said.

Private school teachers undergo 2-day professional dev’t training

A total of 110 teachers from private schools in the CNMI attended the first day of the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools’ two-day professional development program yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Saipan International School headmaster Ron Snyder, who gave a one-hour slide show, “Introduction to Curriculum Unit Design,” said it is important to put the overall learning goals first before identifying how outcomes are reached.

“The learning plan comes afterwards,” said Snyder, adding that the method deepens broader understanding and “big” idea knowledge for students rather than content standards.

Saipan Community School’s Anne McCaslin and Dani Nowicki shared new teaching methods.

McCaslin, a music and spiritual Bible teacher, and Nowicki, a physical education instructor, spent one hour and 30

minutes talking about “connecting learning standards to real-life standards.”

According to Nowicki, it is proper to guide student learning by listening to what they have to say in place of telling them to memorize it.

Last school year, Snyder, McCaslin, and Nowicki implemented the new methods in their respective classes and believe students preferred it compared to reading textbooks or listening to lectures.

After lunch, attendees took part in job sharing among their peers by comparing classroom struggles and collaborating to resolve them.

Mount Carmel president Galvin Deleon Guerrero ended the first day by borrowing the Marshmallow Challenge from the popular TED Talks series.

Snyder said he looks forward to further learning about new teaching methodologies on the second day. *(Fahim Uddin)*

Hawaiian Rock Corp. is awarded \$9.8M more for runway repairs

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—The U.S. Department of the Navy has awarded Hawaiian Rock Products Corp. an additional \$9,828,942 to repair the Northwest Field North Runway Landing Zone at Andersen Air Force Base.

Repairs are necessary to provide a reliable surface necessary to support large military aircraft, such as the C-17.

Funding for this project was supported by Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam) and authorized through the National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

This announcement adds to a previous award of \$6,224,768 to bring the project total to \$16,053,710. Repairs are expected to be completed in July 2019.

“This project will...allow the Air Force to continue positioning military assets on Guam that keep our island safe and support operations in the Asia-Pacific region. ...I am pleased the Air Force is utilizing local expertise and helping to support our local economy,” said Bordallo. *(PR)*

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The fiery future of California



A firefighter runs while trying to save a home as a wildfire tears through Lakeport, Calif., Tuesday, July 31, 2018. The residence eventually burned.

The devastating Carr fire in Northern California continues to ravage the countryside, nearing—if not already surpassing—100,000 acres, destroying at least 874 buildings and, even more tragically, killing six people with seven other people unaccounted for. To the southeast, two men—one a firefighter and the other a bulldozer operator—died fighting the 57,000-acre Ferguson fire near Yosemite National Park.

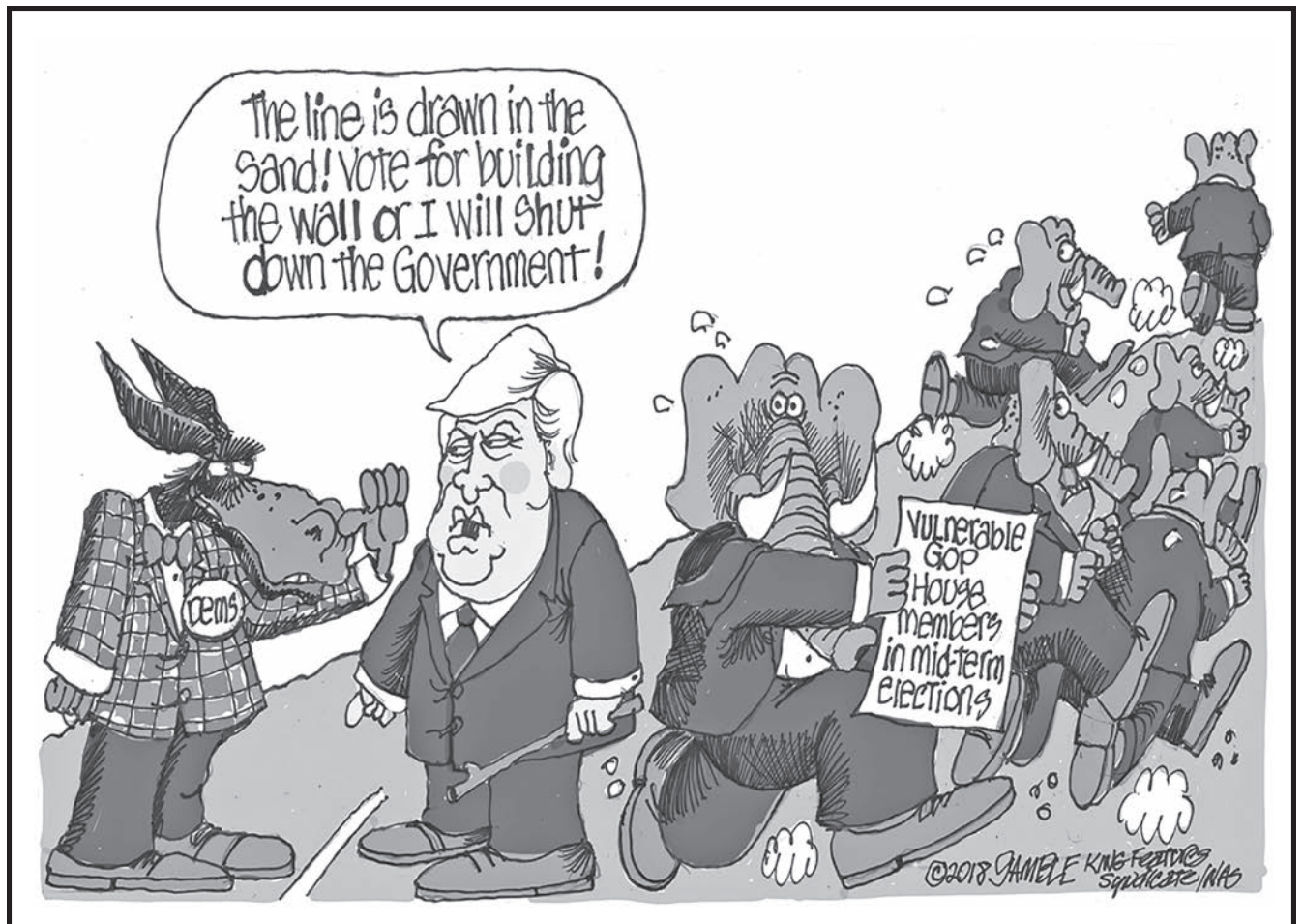
There were 15 other fires raging elsewhere in California, including two fresh fires forcing evacuations in Mendocino and Lake counties. And it's not just California that's burning. As of Monday morning, at least 90 large fires were reported nationwide, all in the West except for a blaze in Florida.

Such fires are nothing new in this part of the country. But the fire season this year has begun much earlier than usual, and while scientists warn that specific weather conditions cannot be tied directly to climate change, these are just the sorts of impacts we have been warned to expect from a warming planet.

In fact, prolonged drought is a major factor in the current fires. Years of drought, broken by a rainy 2016-2017 winter followed by an unusually dry winter last year, have left the countryside covered with dead or dormant plants. In the mountains, drought damage has been augmented by bark beetle infestations that have left more than 100 million trees dead on their roots in California alone. All of that organic material is kindling and fuel for an errant spark or a bolt of lightning. And if heavy rains come in the aftermath of a fire, the charred landscape becomes the setting for deadly mudslides like those that flowed through Montecito earlier this year.

The loss of life has been heartbreaking. Three of the Carr fire victims were 70-year-old Melody Bledsoe and two

See CALIFORNIA on Next Page



Here's what the fall of the American empire would look like

By **TYLER COWEN**
Bloomberg News



Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog *Marginal Revolution*. His books include *The Complacent Class: The Self-Defeating Quest for the American Dream*. Readers may email him at tcowen2@bloomberg.net

So what would the decline of America look like? I don't ask the question because I think it's happening (yet?), but because even the most inveterate optimist should be interested in the dangers, if only to ward them off.

Here's the cleanest tale of hypothetical decline I could come up with, keeping away from the more partisan or hysterical scenarios, or those involving a catastrophic *deus ex machina*.

Imagine that the United States gets through the presidency of Donald Trump without a crippling constitutional crisis. Still, the shrill public debate—which will continue well past Trump's time in office—will continue to prove unequal to the task of addressing the nation's most pressing problems.

In recent years, the underlying rate of productivity growth often has been about 1 percent, and rates of economic growth are not even half of what they used to be. Meanwhile, America will have to increase taxes or reduce spending by about \$2,200 per taxpayer per year to keep the national debt-to-GDP ratio from rising ever higher, and that figure predates the Trump tax cuts. To fund that shortfall, the U.S. will cut back on infrastructure maintenance. At least one-third of this country will end up looking like—forgive the colloquial phrase—"a dump." The racial wealth gap will not be narrowed.

Aging and entitlements will force the president, whether Democratic or Republican, to look for a mix of spending cuts and tax increases. The spending cuts will diminish the range of the military, and the tax hikes will ensure that economic growth doesn't pick up. The integrity of Medicare and Social Security will be (mostly) protected, but the U.S. will lose the ability to project power around the globe.

Over a period of less than five years, China will retake Taiwan and also bring much of East and Southeast Asia into a much tighter sphere of influence. Turkey and Saudi Arabia will build nuclear weapons and become dominant players in their regions. Russia will continue to nibble at the borders of neighboring states, including Latvia and Estonia, and NATO will lose its credibility, except for a few bilateral relationships, such as with the U.K. Parts of Eastern Europe will return to fascism. NAFTA will exist on paper, but it will be under perpetual renegotiation and hemispheric relations will fray.

One area of major technological advance will be drugs, and I don't mean beneficial pharmaceuticals. The opioid crisis eventually will subside, but new waves of ever more powerful addic-

tive substances will arise. Easy home lab production will make interdiction at the border fruitless. More than 80,000 Americans already die from alcohol every year, and more than 60,000 from drug overdoses. Total losses from addiction will rise.

Other technologies will indeed provide a bounty, but not all of it will be positive. Artificial intelligence and facial and gait surveillance will lead to unprecedented invasions of privacy, causing another 1 or 2 percent of Americans to decide to "live off the grid." The impact of assassin drones will be curbed—by filling the skies with police drones. Public crimes will plummet, but public spaces in major cities will have a depressing sameness, due to the near-total absence of spontaneous behavior. Advances in recording technologies will make most conversations in public, and many in private, remarkably bland.

Driverless cars will be "the next big thing," but they'll make roads more crowded. The elderly will insist on their driverless car rights, and defeat economists' proposals for new congestion charges. Americans will spend another hour a day in their cars, although texting and watching TV, rather than driving.

The very worst fears about climate change won't come true. But a nagging succession of storms, plus required adjustments along the coasts to accommodate a rise in sea level, will eat up about 0.5 percent worth of economic growth. So when America does occasionally approach 3 percent growth, in terms of living standards it may feel more like 2 percent.

Shall I present my own petty gripes? Due to the limited selection on Netflix streaming, fewer and fewer people will watch the great movies of the past, thereby neutering the durability of the 20th century's greatest art form. And live performances of classical music—another of the West's most significant and beautiful achievements—will cease to be regular in all but a few major U.S. cities.

So what in this description sounds so implausible? Is it that you think productivity growth will come in at 3 percent? That it will all be worth it because advances in medicine will allow us to stick around in decent form until age 135? That technological breakthroughs will extend the reach of the U.S. military further yet? That the Mars colony will be awesome?

Just how lucky are you feeling?

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Summertime blues

An old song notes that there ain't no cure for the summertime blues. Well, true enough. I've sure had a pretty blah week. As I slouch down in my beach chair, hiding from my wife who is wielding a list of chores I've been avoiding, I'm going to mention a couple of unrelated items.

Here's my first item: Mars.

A couple of days ago, at a distance of 35.8 million miles, Mars came closer to Earth than it's been since 2003. It will be 2035 until Mars gets any closer. So in terms of proximity we're near a 32-year sweet spot. Hey, that's pretty cool.

For those who are interested in taking a look I'll just give a quick mention here today, since I did a lot of yammering about planets on June 15 in this space ("Mars vs. Venus After Dinner.")

This weekend, as the sun is setting, Mars will be breaking over Saipan's southeast horizon. A couple of hours after sunset Mars will have climbed about 25 degrees over the horizon. It will be big, bright, and red. Well, it's sort of orange to my eye, but "red" in the eyeball-astronomy context often means reddish-orangish. That's as opposed to "blue," which often means bluish-whitish. Well, now you know, even if you didn't want to.

Professional and amateur telescopes have been soaking up a lot of Mars action lately. I'll probably join the amateur action next week when the new moon comes around.

CALIFORNIA

From Page 14

great-grandchildren who perished near Redding as a wall of flames sped through their neighborhood. In the Sierra Nevada, 33-year-old Brian Hughes, a "hotshot" firefighter, died when he was struck by a falling tree as he and colleagues raced to set a backfire to stanch the Ferguson fire. Firefighters found another unidentified body Sunday in the ashes of a different home near Redding, and it seems likely that more remains will be found elsewhere in the days to come.

Few areas of the state are immune from wildfires, and no Californian can shake the sense as we watch the smoke and rising death counts that there but for the grace of the prevailing winds go I. We know what we're supposed to do: Maintain brush-free areas around homes in fire-prone areas, have an escape plan laid out, resist the urge for heroics and flee when authorities say so. But as the world continues to burn fossil fuels for energy, and climate change becomes more pronounced, we have to recognize that this isn't nature just doing its thing. We have through our actions endangered ourselves, a reality we must recognize and rectify as quickly and forcefully as possible.

Part of the responsibility falls on state and local officials, who must deal with the rising cost of fire prevention and suppression. State lawmakers recently began hammering out a more balanced approach to assigning liability when power lines cause a fire. Under current law, homeowners can collect from utilities even if the utilities were not negligent. With the state's fiery future, that's likely to lead to financial ruin for the power companies.

Local planners and developers can also do more to consider wildfire risks as they make land-use decisions, and we need to adopt policies that make it easier to develop urban areas at higher levels of density.

But such moves only help address the impacts of the wildfires and mudslides. To get at the root of the problem we must more radically reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for energy and transportation. The Trump administration's "burn, burn, burn" approach to fossil fuel is no help on that front. The evidence of the horrible impacts is right before the nation's eyes, yet the administration is looking at ways it can undo California's efforts to reduce carbon emissions from motor vehicles.

At the moment, there is mourning to be done over the lives lost in the current conflagrations, and there are fires to be contained as well as damage to be assessed and dealt with. But we also must not lose sight of the fact that we can mitigate some of the dangers we face in the future by acting now. We just need the political will to do so.

(c)2018 Los Angeles Times

I don't have high hopes. That's because Mars hates me. Every time I've looked at that doggone planet it has looked like a blob. I've seen no surface features. For all I know, some joker has put a sun-bleached tomato in front of my telescope.

So, for my money, Mars is a better sight with the bare eye than with a telescope.

And now for my second item: media consumption.

My dad was an advertising guy. I grew up looking at the trade press, which often included the latest studies about media consumption. Those were the pre-Internet days. The notion that people would be carting computers in their pockets was mere science fiction back then. But what was easy to recognize, even in the days of black-and-white TV screens, was the hypnotic hold that electronic screens had on most people.

Anyway, it's now being reported that Americans spend over 11 hours a day consuming electronic media. This includes television (4.8 hours per day of "live" and "recorded" programs) and smartphones (2.4 hours per day). This is based on data for the first quarter of 2018 by Nielsen.

I wonder how the CNMI would measure up against this data. I suspect the islands have a larger than average share of people who aren't addicted to electronic screens.

If you're wondering whether or not habitual screen-staring will turn your eyeballs into mush, well, funny you should ask. Acuvue, a maker of contact lenses, understandably takes a professional interest in such things. A recent survey performed by Acuvue said that the average office worker in the U.K. spends about 1,700 hours a year (or 6.5 hours a day) in front of a computer screen.

With that in mind, if you add up work hours, non-work hours,

Reckless abuse of authority

The violation of the public trust is the most egregious form of corruption anywhere. Defined, it means the "misuse of public power (by elected politicians or appointed civil servants) for private gain." It involves actions that violate the interest of "we the people."

Let me hand you issues so you analyze their disposition and draw our own conclusions. We're not trying to convict anyone but simply get a clear view of actions taken to weigh if there are violations committed against the public interest.

For instance, the Constitution says that the expenditure of all public funds requires legislative appropriation. Remember the \$400,000 engineered by Biktot Hokog through legislative resolution? Was its expropriation legal? How come nobody from either side of the hill came forward to retrieve illegally secured taxpayers' money? I suppose it's convenient political collusion! Isn't the NMI a government of laws? Is lawlessness the legacy of this administration?

Moreover, a legislator leased public land then turned around and rented it to another. It's the infamous Arnold Palacios lease, for which we haven't heard how much did he make or was the rent money returned to DPL? How much does he owe DPL: \$1 million or \$195,000? Was the adjustment done because of accounting errors or was it a unilateral decision by DPL without the requisite authority? Could DPL explain this with some sense of transparency?

Moreover, IPI or Best Sunshine was excused from regulatory agency(s) review that includes DEQ, DPW, Fish and Wildlife, etc. Yet other firms must go through the requirements of pertinent laws to secure their license. Isn't this in violation of a certain federal law that prohibits power peddling for friends? So the politically connected gets off free while the rest must endure mandates of regulatory requirements. It's a display of policy instability that's damaging to the local investment atmosphere here.

In grammar lingo, the elected elite is confused over what makes for a simple and complete sentence. They promise to help villagers yet approve their 80-percent salary increase without blinking. Does this in any way help improve the buying power of villagers? What about the 14,000 employees stuck in poverty income level and below?

Reminds one what President Trump said recently about failed leadership: "I have no patience for injustice, no tolerance for government incompetence, no sympathy for leaders who fail

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



computers, smartphones, and TVs, it seems likely that many people, perhaps even most (at least in modern office cultures), spend essentially their entire waking lives using electronic screens.

Entire books, and entire medical studies, are going to be written about this someday. I'll just offer one beach-chair observation. I see some segmentation going on here. The screen people, and the non-screen people (to the extent anyone in modern society can be such a thing), seem to be polarizing as they clump around their own kinds.

I've seen divorces over such things. One person's hallowed time with the family at Thanksgiving dinner is another person's opportunity to put a selfie on the Web. The technology isn't the real issue, it's merely an amplified reflection of a deeper difference in outlooks.

Well, speaking of a difference in outlooks, I'm being beckoned so I can wash the cars. I'd better come up with a diversionary tactic right away.

Hey, honey! Look! Mars!

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



their citizens."

Read: CHC suffers a budgetary shortfall of some \$13 million, not to mention some \$50 million owed CUC by the local government. Isn't the unfunded liability of the fund still owed about \$789 million? Isn't the cumulative deficit more than \$50 million? It's clear that these debts and mounting obligations do not leave much room to toy with scarce resources, true?

Corruption is a tough issue to detect on its face. The reason is simple: The elite is usually the boss of the group. Working with their cronies, they are their own experts and go about their work with some semblance of propped-up integrity. The group is cloistered in its powerful organization, witch-filled or evil ways and tends to be much freer from the consequences of their actions.






Those closest to the source of power are obedient servants carrying out orders faithfully. In the process they learn how to cover one another. But there's always the chance of someone dropping the ball, what with the boss' ego being loaded with greed, power and servile cronies.

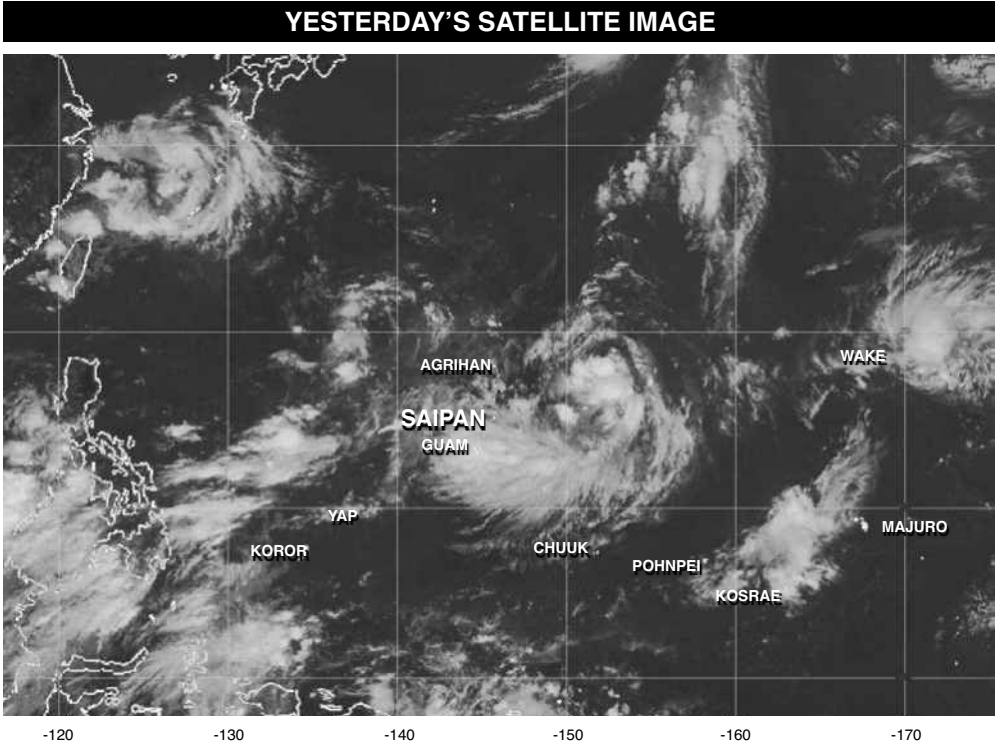
This combination sets the stage for the elected elite to recklessly abuse their authority. It includes padding their wallets as though the rest of us are simpletons or ignoramus. The benefits, federally or locally funded, are usually limited to the "we few" and hardly distributed to the people that really need the help. Active though quiet treading is in order of every key player, daily.

It had to be greed, arrogance and negligence that prompted the elected elite on the hill to increase their salaries by 80 percent. What about cumulative deficits and obligations in the billions of dollars? Shouldn't we be saving for that rainy day too?

See **RECKLESS** on Page 18

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
 Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South-west winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South-west winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°



PICTURE TIME: 7:38 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.
Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are evident on radar and satellite across the CNMI with showers slowly spreading southward nearer Guam. Two circulations are near the Marianas...Invest 93W to the NW near 20N139E, and Invest 94W to the NE near 19N153E. A large area of showers and thunderstorms is found between the Marianas and 94W. Marianas observations have shown a half to 1 millibar drop in pressure the past 24 hours.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	57° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	97° / 79°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
London	Mostly Sunny	90° / 68°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 50°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	85° / 74°
Osaka	Sunny	97° / 79°
Paris	Sunny	93° / 70°
Busan	Sunny	91° / 82°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	90° / 73°
Salem	Thunderstorms	80° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	95° / 81°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	83° / 74°



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TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
06:15 AM	LOW TIDE	0.73
11:30 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.52
5:52 PM	LOW TIDE	0.46
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:54 AM	11:08 PM
Saturday	-	11:45 AM	11:51 PM
Sunday	-	12:39 AM	-
Monday	12:36 AM	1:35 PM	-
Tuesday	1:26 AM	2:35 PM	-

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UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily	UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Transforming justice and the OAG

As I submit my petition to run for another term as your attorney general, I pause to reflect on the duties and responsibilities of the office and whether I have fulfilled those during my first term in office. I was constantly reminded of the oath I took in January 2014 to “faithfully support and defend the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth and the United States...” I believe I have done so to the best of my ability. I have kept my promise to make the Office of the Attorney General work for the people. The office vigorously defended actions as well claims against the Commonwealth. I brought and settled claims on behalf of the Commonwealth on many different issues such as violation of the zoning laws, building codes, environment laws, consumer related issues and settled long-standing judgments against including land compensation claims, personnel matters, including the pursuit for the recovery of money in the case of *MV Luta* and many others.

The Office of the Attorney is on the path of becoming a truly independent office, free from political interference as envisioned in our Constitution. The OAG delivered legal advice to the Executive Branch, its departments, autonomous agencies, and public corporations on a variety of legal issues throughout my term. I have given our governor and lieutenant governor legal advice on legislation, on issues affecting their administration, and provided review of legal documents and undertaking by the Executive Branch. I am pleased of where we are today in my office’s relationship with the Executive Branch in the execution of Commonwealth laws.

As for the Legislature, the OAG has taken an important part in providing written comments on bills under consideration. I view this as an important and critical role as the OAG has the ultimate duty to defend the laws passed by the Legislature.

My overarching goal has and will continue to be the protection and security of our citizens. I have assembled a strong prosecution team who work day in and day out with our law enforcement partners to bring law violators to justice. Our prosecutors work hard using legal tools to keep violent and dangerous criminals off our villages and neighborhood. Our record in the Superior Court and appeals to the Supreme Court are examples of the hard work and dedication of our prosecutors. The OAG under my leadership has taken several important cases on appeal to the NMI Supreme Court as in the criminal cases of *Crisostomo* and *Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion*, and many others. We believe in applying the rule of law as prosecutors working for the people of the Commonwealth. Our attorneys adhere to the principle that the law should be applied equally regardless of rank, condition, or origin and, most importantly, that no person should be prosecuted without clear violation of our laws. The attorneys understand that any investigation and prosecution of any case carries great responsibility and that these responsibilities are not to be taken lightly. I am proud of the work of the Criminal Division in ensuring that justice is served in every case.

While we work to prosecute and convict law violators, we also believe in the rehabilitation of those who we believe based on the evidence deserve a second chance. We have this great opportunity as a community to review and bring about changes in the criminal justice system where necessary to bring about a stable and enduring community.

The OAG has made great strides in the last four years. I have established a Solicitor Division. I have appointed an assistant attorney general to handle consumer issues and complaint. Our civil division staff have been actively engaged with our government agencies, providing legal advice and assistance in drafting contracts and using proper procurement rules. Our legal services have expanded to public corporations and autonomous agencies to ensure the consistency of legal policies throughout the Commonwealth government as envisioned in the Constitution. We have provided legal assistance in drafting rules and regulations for the agencies, assisted in addressing personnel issues, and provided legal defense on a number of lawsuits filed against the Commonwealth.

The OAG has been engaged in other projects as well. We have drafted meaningful legislation for the protection and livelihood of our children in the most recent legislation establishing the Uniform Family Support Act. With the Superior Court and other agencies, we are working on establishing child support guidelines. To protect families and combat domestic violence, we drafted Public Law 20-28 which makes strangulation a specific crime and protects victims from intimidation and threats. Another OAG initiative is the legislation dealing with weapons control, called the

SAFE Act. I believe we are much safer and stronger in this community with the passage of these laws. In addition, the attorneys in the OAG have been active in a number of committees established by the court as well as our representation in the CNMI Bar Association.

My goal for the next term in office is to continue to promote and ensure an open and transparent government. I initiated and published an Open Government Act pamphlet, which was made available to all the agencies. I will enforce this law on every agency of our government in my next term. This is important as our citizens depend on good governance to bring quality of life to all of us. As framed in the text of the Third Constitutional Convention, Resolution 3, “Insufficient public debate would deprive the voting public of a meaningful opportunity to form an informal opinion on critical issues which will likely determine the Commonwealth for many years to come.”

The OAG has by example published our office’s Policies

By EDWARD E. MANIBUSAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Edward E. Manibusan is the attorney general of the CNMI.



and Procedures Manual in the *Commonwealth Register*. The Policies and Procedures Manual provides for a professional organization properly and efficiently organized. Both legal and administrative staff have received the necessary training to hone their skills and meet high performance standards. The entire OAG IT system has been upgraded to safeguard

See OAG on Page 18

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Offer ends on August 30, 2018 or while supply of Mobil Synergy Supreme+ umbrellas last, whichever occurs first. Customers can redeem their \$250 worth of Mobil Synergy Supreme+ fuel receipts from July 20, 2018 until September 6, 2018, Monday to Sunday from 8am to 5pm. Fleet Card, Mobil Synergy Extra purchases and non-fuel purchases are not eligible for this promotion. Get terms and conditions at Saipan Mobil service stations or by calling our toll-free hotline at 1-866-486-7751 Monday through Friday from 10am to 7pm. All trademarks used herein are trademarks of Exxon Mobil Corporation or one of its subsidiaries.

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Northern Marianas Housing Corporation





To All Interested Individuals, Real Estate Companies, and Landlords
You are invited to the
NMHC Landlord Briefing

When

August 10, 2018; Time: 9:00a.m.-12:00 Noon

Where

Pedro P. Tenorio, Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Topics Include

Benefits to becoming a Section 8 Landlord, Landlord Rights & Responsibilities, Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Registration & many more...

For more information, please contact NMHC @ Tel: 234-6866/9447/7670 for Mitch Aaron or Ben Camacho

Email: Mitch: housinginspectoram@nmhcgov.net
Ben: housinginspectoramz@nmhcgov.net
Website: www.nmhcgov.net

Constitutional amendment moves forward

By ALICE S. IGITOL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

After lengthy research, countless discussions, and consultations with the Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees, members of the community, solicitations of comments from the different branches of the CNMI and municipal governments, non-profit organizations/associations, and public hearings on Saipan, Tinian and Rota the proposed Constitutional Amendment of Article XI, Section 6(d) is finally moving forward.

The proposed constitutional amendment of Article XI, Section 6(d), called “House Legislative Initiative 20-01, House Substitute 1, House Draft 2 (H.L.I.20-1, HS 1, HD 2)” finally passed the House of Representative during its first day, sixth regular session on July 30, with 19 members present, one absent, all voting in favor of the amendment.

When I was sworn into office in January 2017, I immediately

initiated the research processes. I reviewed the Covenant Article VIII, Sections 801-806, and the CNMI Constitution Article XI, Section 6(d) and consulted with legal counsels to gain a better understanding before initiating the introduction of H.L.I. 20-01, HS1, HD2.

The above proposed constitutional amendment aims to abolish certain specific provision under Article XI, Section 6(d) which states “...The trustees shall transfer to the general revenues of the Commonwealth the remaining interest accrued on the trust proceeds ...” and replace it with “The trustees shall transfer the accrued interest into a separate account to be distributed to all eligible persons of Northern Marianas descent every year, except that the trustees may retain the amount necessary to meet reasonable expenses of administration. To be eligible to receive the portion of the fund distribution, all persons of Northern Marianas descent are required to register at the Marianas Public Land Trust office. The Marianas Public

Land Trust office shall issue an official ‘Northern Marianas Descent Card’ to all eligible persons of Northern Marianas descent for use for the distribution of the accrued interest funds. The Marianas Public Land trustees shall be authorized to establish rules and procedures to effectuate the intent of this section.”

It is my intention to appear and be aired on the radio station for public presentation and question-and-answer session as the initiative progresses.

As I have promised the CNMI public during my political campaigning in the 2016 election processes that I will pursue the constitutional amendment of Article XI, Section 6(d), I am now officially reporting to the general public on the status of my action. I am very humbled, thankful and very pleased with the favorable support of all the members of the 20th House of Representatives. Thank you very much and *ghilisow!*

Alice Igitol is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives of the 20th CNMI Legislature.



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
Tel. No.: 664-8300 Fax No.: 664-8315

As of August 02, 2018
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Triple J-Art Ridge Village Homes, LLC	7/23/2018 SSCH-2018-X-175	Archaeological Subsurface testing	Garapan	Coastal Hazard	Approved 7/24/2018
2. Pelley Boat Charters	7/24/2018 SPI-2018-X-176	Drydock & In Water Maintenance	Outer Cove Marina, Garapan	Ports & Industrial	Approved 7/26/2018
3. Latte Marine Construction	7/26/2018 SLRP-2018-X-177	Underwater Boat Repair-Shaft Replacement	Outer Cove Marina, Garapan	Lagoon & Reef & Ports & Industrial	Approved* 7/26/2018
4. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc.	7/26/2018 SSLR-2018-X-178	Annual Micronesian Open Windsurfing Regatta &	Hyatt Regency Beach area, Garapan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 7/30/2018
5. Ken Aqua Hotel & Resort, Inc. dba Aqua Resort Club	7/26/2018 SS-2018-X-179	Filming, Photography & Temporary placement of Outdoor signage	Beach side of Aqua Resort in San Roque	Shoreline	Approved* 8/1/2018
6. Ocean Free Corporation	7/26/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-180	Marine Sports - SCUBA Diving, SUP, & Snorkeling	All Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 7/30/2018
7. Pacific Incorporated	7/27/2018 SPI-2018-X-181	Drydock-Ocean Star	South Seaplane Ramp	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 7/30/2018
8. Yi Zheng & Jing Peng	7/30/2018 SS-2018-X-182	Perimeter Chain Link Fence	Beach Road, Garapan	Shoreline	Under Review*
9. Saipan Globe Intl' Group, Ltd. dba Saipan Globe Hotel	7/16/2018 SS-2018-X-171	Shoreline Restoration & Enhancement Project	San Roque	Shoreline	Approved* 8/1/2018
10. Morihna M. Iguel	8/1/2018 SW-2018-X-183	NRCS Piggery Enhancement	Tanapag	Wetland	Under Review*
11. Hiroshi Yamamoto	6/27/2018 RLRM-2018-X-0716	Mooring Buoy	Senhanom, Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 8/3/2018
12. Construction and Material Supply, Inc.	08/02/2018 SMS-95-X-48	10 year quarry extension	Kannat Tabla	Major Siting Amendment 2018-1	Under Review

NMHC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

OAG


From Page 17

the security and integrity of our confidential files and records. Another important aspect of function of the OAG is the development of our office website, giving access to public information on our

work and on matters of interest and concern.

As transformation is occurring in the OAG, I encourage all agencies of the Commonwealth to be open and transparent for the good of the people we serve.

I am humbled to have served the people as the first elected attorney general. I am proud of the work the OAG has provided to the government and the outcomes of our collaboration. There will be challenges in the years ahead but with those come great opportunities to change outdated policies that undermine the public interest and the rule of law. I am prepared and ready to serve the people of the Commonwealth once again—to the best of my ability.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501025 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@cpa.gov.mp
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

APPEALS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting for the Appeals Ad-hoc Committee of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom, Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. RNV Construction's Appeal – Saipan Passenger Loading Bridges Replacement Project

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed for oral statements.

RECKLESS

From Page 15

The reckless abuse of authority places essential services at risk. It's about prudent spending of scarce public funds to ensure there's money for healthcare, the education of our children and other social programs designed to help those earning poverty income level and below at this juncture. Anybody home?

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE AND UN ENVIRONMENT
TOGETHER WITH THE OCEAN AGENCY
AND
THE TIFFANY & CO. FOUNDATION AND GOOGLE
INCLUDING
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT -
CNMI CORAL REEF INITIATIVE
PRESENTS

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BTS photobook to feature the Marianas

International recording sensation and K-pop boy band BTS shot their photobook on location in the Marianas on May 23-29, 2018, in this western Pacific beach resort destination.

BTS, also known as Bangtan Boys, is the first K-pop group to clinch a Billboard Music Award, winning the Top Social Artist Award in 2017 and 2018. The group also won Best Boy Band Award during the 2018 iHeartRadio Music Awards and Asia New Artist of the Year Award during the Japan Gold Disc Awards in 2018.

The Marianas Visitors Authority helped arrange the



International K-pop group BTS shoots at Aqua Resort Club for their Summer Package 2018 on May 23-29, 2018.

MVA

photo shoot as part of their continuing media familiarization tour negotiations aimed at increasing international public awareness of the Marianas

“The K-pop phenomenon has once again reached the shores of the Marianas,” said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “BTS has gained worldwide fame through the many international awards they’ve won in the U.S., Korea, Japan, Europe, Asia, and beyond. The MVA is ecstatic to have secured this visit by BTS, which was not an easy task. We had many meetings leading up to this visit to ensure security and comfort of the group was guaranteed so we thank our partners for their cooperation and support.”

BTS has 7.2 million followers on Facebook and is composed of members RM, Jin, Suga, Jhop, Jimin, V, and Jungkook.

“I’ll be honest that I wasn’t aware of how huge of a fan base BTS had in the U.S. and around the world,”



International K-pop group BTS shoots their Summer Package 2018 on May 23-29, 2018. BTS was named Billboard Music Award’s Top Social Artist Award in 2017 and 2018.

MVA

said Concepcion. “Their fans are apparently known as the ‘ARMY,’ which I find fascinating. I was able to personally greet BTS and presented each of them with commemorative gifts from the Marianas. I thanked them for choosing to visit our islands and invited them to visit us again in the future

The group’s annual photobook, a popular product for fans, will feature various sites and activities in the Marianas, including Marpi, snorkeling at Grotto with Saipan Adventure, Ladder Breach, Jetovator with Let’s Go Tour, a UTV jungle tour with Marianas Trekking, a Japanese-era historic light-house, and Aqua Resort Club. The group also dined at The Shack and Surf Club.


The BTS 2018 Summer Package V.4 is now available for pre-order and will be released on Aug. 14, 2018. (MVA)

PUBLIC NOTICE


The Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund would like to announce that Pacifica Insurance, general agent for Aetna International will be available for health insurance open enrollment at the following locations, dates and times:

- **Rota, Mayor's Office:** August 6 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
August 7 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am and 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- **Tinian, Mayor's Office:**
August 8 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am and 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- **Saipan, Multi-purpose Center:**
August 9 from 9:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

For questions please contact the Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund at 670-664-1100.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW-18-IFB-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A FRONT MOWER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TINIAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Supply and Delivery of a Front Mower to the Department of Public Works, Tinian** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 3, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.”

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 22, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 29, 2018 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **“DPW-18-IFB-012”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **9:00 a.m. local time September 4, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **9:00 a.m. local time, September 4, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 4, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **September 12, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **9:00 a.m. local time, September 14, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **9:00 a.m. local time, on September 3, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a)

A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b)

A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1)

Cash

2)

US Gov’t Securities

3)

Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4)

Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5)

Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Business

US proposes higher tax on \$200B in Chinese imports

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration is proposing raising planned taxes on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent, turning up the pressure on Beijing in a trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

The United States has already imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese imports and is readying 25 percent tariffs on another \$16 billion worth to punish China for allegedly using predatory tactics to obtain U.S. technology. The Chinese have retaliated in kind.

Last month, the U.S. proposed 10 percent tariffs on another \$200 billion in Chinese products—from parachutes to sardines—in response to China's retaliation. But President Donald Trump now wants U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to consider more than doubling those tariffs to 25 percent. The government will seek public comment on the higher tariffs. A hearing on the levies is scheduled for Aug. 20-23.

"The Trump Administration continues to urge China to stop its unfair practices, open its market and engage in true market competition," Lighthizer said Wednesday, adding that, "Regrettably, instead of changing its harmful behavior, China has illegally retaliated against U.S. workers, farmers, ranchers and businesses."

Reacting to media reports that the higher tariffs were coming, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang warned that Beijing will "definitely fight back" to defend its "lawful rights and interests."

He gave no details of possible retaliatory measures.

Trump has threatened to escalate the conflict even more by taxing virtually all of the \$500 billion worth of goods China ships annually to the United States.

"The president is going to continue to hold China responsible for their unfair trade practices," said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "This has gone on for long enough and he's going to do something about it."

But Trump's tariffs have drawn criticism at home in the United States for driving up costs for consumers and companies that rely on Chinese imports.

"We said before that this round of tariffs amounted to doubling down on the recklessness of imposing trade policy that will hurt U.S. families and workers more than they will hurt China," said Matthew Shay, president of the National Retail Federation. "Increasing the size of the tariffs is merely increasing the harm that will be done."

Mickey Kantor, who was U.S. trade representative under President Bill Clinton, warned that a trade war with China will take a toll on a U.S. healthy economy that from April through June registered the fastest growth since 2014.

"Our economy is in terrific shape," said Kantor, now a partner at the Mayer Brown law firm. "Why in the world would you do this? It makes no sense. We don't need it. It will cost us jobs and investment. It will slow the economy."

Trump's short-term health plans are cheaper but cover less

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumers will have more options to buy cheaper, short-term health insurance under a new Trump administration rule, but there's no guarantee the plans will cover pre-existing conditions or provide benefits like coverage of prescription drugs.

Administration officials said Wednesday the short-term plans will last up to 12 months and can be renewed for up to 36 months. With premiums about one-third the cost of comprehensive coverage, the option is geared to people who want an individual health insurance policy but make too much money to qualify for subsidies under the Affordable Care Act.

"We see that it's just unaffordable for so many people who are not getting subsidies and we're trying to make additional options available," said Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar.

"These may be a good choice for individuals, but they may also not be the right choice for everybody."

Buyers take note: Plans will carry a disclaimer that they don't meet the ACA's requirements and safeguards. And there's no federal guarantee short-term coverage can be renewed.

Democrats immediately branded Trump's approach as "junk insurance," and a major insurer group warned that consumers could potentially be harmed. Other insurers were more neutral, and companies marketing the plans hailed the development.


It's unclear how much mass-market appeal such limited plans will ultimately have. State insurance regulators also have jurisdiction, and many states may move to impose their own restrictions. Federal officials said they anticipate a slow take-up, not sweeping changes.

Unable to repeal much of "Obamacare," the Trump administration has tried to undercut how it's supposed to work and to create options for people who don't qualify for financial assistance with premiums.

Officials are hoping short-term plans will fit the bill. Next year, there will be no tax penalty for someone who opts for short-term coverage versus a comprehensive plan, so more people might consider the option. More short-term plans will be available starting this fall.

A major insurer group expressed strong concerns.

"The broader availability and longer duration of slimmed-down policies that do not provide comprehensive coverage has the potential to harm consumers, both by making comprehensive coverage more expensive and by leaving some consumers unaware of the risks of these policies," said Justine Handelman of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, whose members are a mainstay of ACA coverage.




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**SECOND NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

FRANCISCO L. WILLIAM (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 27, 1998 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 8, 2004 under Document No. 04-2078 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 026 K 35, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 814 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 026 K 03, DATED DECEMBER 15, 1992, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 92-3822, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1992, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 27, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Eighty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Eight and 90/100 (\$86,688.90)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.** All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than **Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.** Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check, or credit card (Visa or Mastercard) to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Credit card payments totaling \$1,000.00 USD, or more, will be charged an additional Three (3)% fee to recover merchant credit card service fees. This fee does not apply to "debit" card payments.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2018.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	004 B 44	Chamolinian Dr., Tanapag, Saipan	MINIMUM BID :	\$59,450.00
LOT NO.:	002 G 408	Bilimbines Rd., Kagman II, Saipan	MINIMUM BID :	\$52,450.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on August 27, 2018, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid.** The minimum acceptable bid for purchase/lease on each property shall be (as indicated above).
- Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021.
- Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC. * Credit card payments totaling \$1,000.00 USD, or more, will be charged an additional Three (3) % fee to recover merchant credit card service fees. This fee does not apply to "debit" card payments.
- Change of Terms.** NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
- Lease option.** NMHC gives notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be fifty-five (55) years.
 - A lease agreement will be given upon receipt of the up-front payment and shall include:
 - Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
 - Lessee responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
 - Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2018.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Nation

Wildfires scorching homes, land—and California’s budget

UPPER LAKE, Calif. (AP)—Just a month into the budget year, the state has already spent more than one-quarter of its annual fire budget, at least \$125 million, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Mike Mohler said Wednesday.

Following years of drought and a summer of record-breaking heat, immense tracts of forests, chaparral and grasslands have become tinder that allows even a small spark to explode into a devouring blaze, authorities said.

“We’re being surprised. Every year is teaching the fire authorities new lessons,” Gov. Jerry Brown said at a news conference. “We’re in uncharted territory.”

More than 13,000 firefighters are battling fires with the help of crews from as far away as Florida but Brown repeated predictions from fire officials that California can expect a future of devastating fires, in part because of the changing climate.

“People are doing everything they can, but nature is very powerful and we’re not on the side of nature,” Brown said.

The largest blaze burned in the Redding area, in Shasta County north of Sacramento. Six people, including two firefighters, have died and the fire has destroyed 1,058 homes and nearly 500 other buildings, including barns and warehouses, making it the sixth most destructive wildfire in California history, state fire officials said.

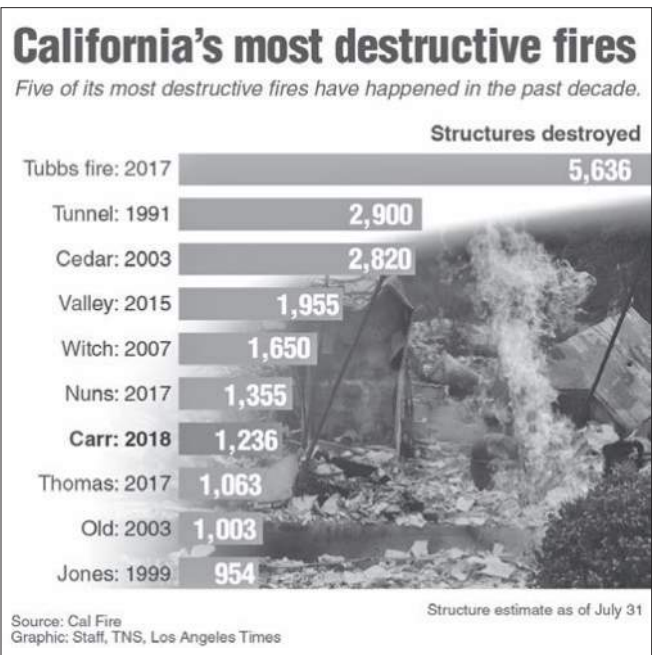
Tens of thousands of people remain under evacuation orders.

However, authorities who had feared there might be more casualties reported Wednesday that all those who had been reported missing had been located.

The fire, which is nearly twice the size of Sacramento, was only 35 percent contained after more than a week.

“Unstable conditions, shifting winds, steep terrain, and dry fuels continue to challenge firefighters,” a state fire update warned Wednesday evening, noting that 35-mph wind gusts were expected on ridge tops that could whip up the flames.

Meanwhile, at least three new fires erupted Wednesday in the Sierra Nevada region, including a blaze in Placer County that had consumed 1



tinued to burn through grass, brush and timberlands. The fire near Covelo prompted evacuation orders for about 60 homes in the farming and ranching area on the edge of the Mendocino National Forest.

Twin fires also burned in Mendocino and Lake counties. They burned 14 homes and threatened 12,000 more.

A 100-square mile fire near Yosemite National Park prompted evacuation orders Wednesday for the community of Wawona inside the park, which has fewer than 200 residents. Yosemite Valley and other areas of the park have been closed to tourists since July 25 because of heavy smoke from the fire, which has burned nearly 64,000 acres (258 square kilometers) and is only 39 percent contained.

1/2 square miles (1,000 acres or 4 square kilometers) of land. North and east of San Francisco, two wildfires that began Tuesday near the communities of Covelo and Yuba City con-

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort personally directed millions of dollars in international wire transfers to pay for high-end suits and more than \$3 million in improvements at his various houses, witnesses testified on the second day of his financial fraud trial.

The testimony Wednesday was aimed at bolstering the prosecution’s argument that Manafort hid millions of dollars in income from the IRS and used the funds for a lavish lifestyle. The witness accounts were also intended to contradict Manafort’s lawyers, who have signaled they will pin blame for any illegal conduct on his longtime deputy, Rick Gates.

The prosecution’s focus on Manafort’s personal finances — at times laid out in painstaking detail — underscored the vast amount of documents accumulated by special counsel Robert Mueller’s team in their case against the longtime political consultant. But it also tried the patience of U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III, who repeatedly scolded the government’s attorneys for what he said was excessive and unnecessary information.

Ellis, who warned prosecutors against using the word “oligarchs” to describe wealthy Ukrainians, several times admonished them for spending so much time documenting Manafort’s extravagant lifestyle.

It’s not a crime to be wealthy, he noted. And the pejorative term “oligarchs” and evidence of home renovations aren’t necessarily relevant to the charges in question, he added.

“The government doesn’t want to prosecute somebody because they wear nice clothes, do they?” Ellis said amid testimony that Manafort

Witnesses: Manafort himself directed millions of dollars

had spent more than \$900,000 on clothing from a boutique retailer where he was one of only about 40 clients. “Let’s move on.”

Ellis even called out lawyers from both sides for rolling their eyes.

The trial is the first courtroom test for the special counsel, who was tasked last year with investigating Russia’s efforts to sway the 2016 election and to determine whether the Trump campaign was involved. So far, Manafort is the lone person to stand trial as a result of the ongoing probe, even though the charges of bank fraud and tax evasion are unrelated to possible collusion.

Still, the trial has pulled back the curtain on the former lobbyist who steered Trump’s election efforts for a time, including descriptions of Manafort’s \$15,000 jacket made of ostrich and the more than \$6 million in cash he put toward real estate. One witness, Maximillian Katzman, testified that Manafort spent more than \$900,000 at his boutique retailer in New York. He said Manafort was the only business client of his who paid via international wire transfer.

An FBI agent described the July 2017 raid on Manafort’s Virginia condominium, saying he knocked multiple times before entering with a key and finding Manafort inside. The searches described by agent Matthew Mikuska found expensively tailored suits and documents related to other luxury items allegedly bought by Manafort, including two silk rugs bought for \$160,000 paid from offshore accounts.

But when prosecutors introduced photos of Manafort’s high-end condo and expensive suits, Ellis interrupted so as to limit the growing list of evidence jurors would have to consider.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
COMMUTER TERMINAL ACCESS ROAD PAVING
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-18**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering Design Services for this project inclusive of onsite assessment and preparation of plans and specifications for road repair, drainage and resurfacing of the access road leading to the Saipan Commuter Terminal. All work will be performed at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations. Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, August 6, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 19, 2018



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
CPA NEW ACCOUNTING OFFICE/
CNMI CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE RENOVATIONS PROJECT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-008-16**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering Design Services inclusive of onsite assessments and preparation of plans and specifications for construction of a new 1st floor enclosure for CPA Accounting (West Wing), renovation to the CNMI Customs and Quarantine Office (East Wing), roof leak repairs, removal and application of water proofing membrane at both the East and West Wings (above customs and accounting respectively), and repairs to the male/female baggage claim restrooms.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations. Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, August 3, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.


The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 19, 2018



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Monday, August 6, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. Public attendance is welcome. The order of business of the Board, unless changed by the majority vote of its members, shall be as follows:

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Adoption of Agenda

D. Adoption of Minutes

E. Correspondence

1. July 26, 2018 Annual Board Meeting

II. Public Comments**

III. Management Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

B. Chief Financial Officer's Report

C. Legal Counsel's Report

IV. Old Business

A. CUC-CPA Settlement Agreement

B. CUC-CHCC Intergovernmental Net Metering Cooperative Agreement

C. Employees' Survey

VII. New Business

A. Quarterly Board Meetings

B. Revised Telesource Change Order No. 5

V. Executive Session***

VI. Adjournment

/s/ MIRANDA V. MANGLONA
Chairwoman, CUC Board of Directors

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.

** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Committee members may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Asia

Progress in sea feud, Koreas stir ASEAN though rifts persist

SINGAPORE (AP)—South-east Asian nations are expected to welcome an initial negotiating draft of a nonaggression pact with China on the South China Sea, but critics warn that the protracted talks provide a diplomatic cover for Beijing's tenacious aggression in the disputed waters.

Top diplomats of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will also praise the rapprochement between the Koreas, along with that of President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, when they gather for four days of annual sum-

mitry in Singapore starting Wednesday.

Currently led by Singapore, the 10-nation bloc will host on Saturday Asia's largest security forum, including the key players involved in the Korean Peninsula's disarmament efforts, which will provide a chance for them to talk on the summit's sidelines.

Concern over rising extremism in the region and the plight of minority Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine state will also be under the spotlight. Myanmar is to brief the ASEAN foreign ministers on the situation in Rakh-

ine during a lunch "retreat," an informal gathering where ministers raise contentious issues that normally are a taboo in their staid plenary meetings.

Founded in 1967 in the Cold War era as a bulwark against communism, ASEAN has a bedrock principle of non-interference in each other's domestic affairs and decides by consensus, meaning even one member state can doom any proposal it deems offensive.

Those cardinal principles have drastically slowed decision-making and have been used by authoritarian leaders to dodge outside criticism,

causing the diplomatic collective to be labeled by skeptics as a "club of dictators" and human rights violators. But its principles have allowed ASEAN to maintain diverse national identities, from ram-bunctious democracies to martial law regimes, for half a century.

The bloc has also been an acceptable broker for talks for all sorts of conflicts.

In the South China Sea disputes, which have pitted China, Taiwan and four ASEAN member states—Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam—the group is ex-

pected to announce an agreement with Beijing on an initial negotiating draft of a so-called "code of conduct," a proposed set of regional norms and rules aimed at preventing the long-seething disputes from degenerating into a shooting war.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said Tuesday before flying to Singapore that talks on the code could be concluded this year or next. Other Asian diplomats have not been as optimistic.

The ministers will welcome "the improving cooperation between ASEAN and China and were encouraged by the

progress of the substantive negotiations towards the early conclusion of an effective code of conduct in the South China Sea on a mutually agreed timeline," according to a draft of a joint post-summit communique by the ministers which was obtained by The Associated Press.

Some of the ministers would repeat their concerns over China's transformation of seven disputed reefs into islands, including three with runways, which now resemble small cities armed with weapons, including surface-to-air missiles.



ASIA BRIEFS

Myanmar says 12 dead, 132,000 forced from homes by floods

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Flooding in Myanmar has killed 12 people and forced more than 132,000 others to take shelter at nearly 300 temporary camps, a report said Wednesday. The state newspaper Global New Light of Myanmar cited the National Natural Disaster Management Committee as saying the highest death toll was in Bago region north of Yangon, where four people died and more than 94,000 others took refuge in 186 camps. It said torrential rains and strong winds destroyed some bridges and forced people to flee their homes in low-lying areas. Roads were cut by flooding in some ar-

eas, although a major highway that had been blocked for several days was reopened Tuesday as the floodwaters receded, it said.

Indian police seal shelters for alleged female sexual abuse

PATNA, India (AP)—Police in eastern India have sealed a shelter for destitute women amid reports that 11 of the women are missing, police said Wednesday. Another shelter run by the same charity was closed in June after dozens of girls said they had been raped there. The charity's director and nine of his employees have been arrested on rape charges. The second shelter was sealed Tuesday, said police officer Anil Kumar

Singh. Both shelters—one for women, the other for girls ages 7-17—are in the town of Muzzafarpur, some 70 kilometers (40 miles) outside of Patna, the capital of Bihar state. Workers from the state Social Welfare Department reported the women missing Monday, Singh said.

China promoting flying of state flags at religious events

BEIJING (AP)—Officially recognized faith groups in China are promoting the flying of national flags at religious events amid a push by the ruling Communist Party to extend its ideological control over religious life. Flying the flag would emphasize that the fates of the party, nation and in-

dividual are "bound tightly together," a statement viewed Wednesday on the website of the party's United Front Work Department that oversees such groups said. "Raising the flag at religious venues abets the strengthening of religious figures' and religious believers' national and civic consciousness and creates a sense of the Chinese nation's community," said the statement, issued following a conference of groups representing Buddhists, Taoists, Protestants, Catholics and Muslims. The officially atheistic party has tightened its grip over the country's five officially recognized religions this year, ordering especially that Christians and Muslims—religions considered foreign to China—work toward "sinosization."



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

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INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-009-18

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 03, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"COMPLETE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF CENTRIFUGAL VENTILATORS TO BE REPLACED WITH NEW VENTILATORS AT RESTROOM FACILITIES, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES THE SPECIFICATIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATION IS AVAILABLE BEGINNING JULY 13, 2018 AT THE CPA ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEPARTURE BUILDING UPON PAYMENT OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE IN A FORM OF CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO CPA.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL BID AND TWO (2) COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-009-18". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020, §40-50-1015, & §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, FINANCIAL INTEREST, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: _____



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055

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FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DESIGN/BUILD FOR THE MAIN PARKING LOT EXPANSION AND STORM WATER DRAIN REHABILITATION PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-15

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the design and construction to expand the main parking lot at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and rehabilitate the storm water drainage. The work shall include all design, materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout.

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA Engineering Department at telephone number 670-237-6500 or fax number 670-664-3533.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Criteria for scoring proposals and proposal submission requirements are detailed in **Section XII. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**, of the Scope of Work.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

One original and four (4) copies of the proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for Main Parking Lot Expansion and Storm Water Drainage Rehabilitation at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-004-15"**. Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 25, 2018

World

Aeromexico crash: Stronger planes can mean fewer fatalities

Passengers in plane crashes like the Aeromexico accident—in which no one died—have better chances of survival due to better aircraft construction and safety standards, experts say.

People are now less likely to be trapped by collapsed seats and floors, especially if

the plane comes to rest more or less level and the accident occurs on flat ground and at lower speeds, as happened with Tuesday's crash in northern Mexico.

Survival rates are higher than ever in part because "airplanes are stronger than ever," said Adrian Young, an

air-safety investigator from the Netherlands-based consultancy To70.

Other improvements in recent decades include wider use of materials that burn more slowly and without giving off toxic fumes, and smarter airport layouts that eliminate obstacles near runways.

In the end, though, "Good fortune is crucial in any accident," Young said Wednesday.

Authorities in Mexico said there were no fatalities among the 97 passengers and four crew members aboard the Embraer 190 jet that crashed moments after takeoff in Durango, sending plumes of

black and gray smoke into the sky. Rescuers took 49 people to hospitals; most of them had minor injuries.

On average, about 56 percent of passengers survive airline accidents in which at least one person is killed.

Takeoff accidents occur on or near the runway, so obstacles on the ground—runway lights, fences, ditches and embankments—can lead to more extensive damage to the plane and increase the risk of an immediate fire, said Harro Ranter, CEO of Aviation Safety Network, which compiles a database on accidents.

"Luckily the area around the runway at Durango was relatively flat and covered with some bushes and no hazardous obstacles or ditches," Ranter said. "This likely caused all on board to survive (or) else it could have ended

up a whole lot worse."

There have been other serious accidents in which everyone on board survived despite major damage—even destruction—of the plane.

In 2016, everyone escaped after an engine explosion during takeoff caused a fire that severely damaged an American Airlines plane at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. In 2013, a Lion Air jet missed the runway, crashed in water and broke in two near Bali, Indonesia, yet all 108 people on board got out alive.

And in a famous event from 2009 that inspired a movie, US Airways pilots Chesley Sullenberger and Jeffrey Skiles safely landed their US Airways jet on the Hudson River after the plane's engines were knocked out by striking a flock of geese during takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport.



In this photo released by Red Cross Durango communications office, Red Cross workers and rescue workers carry an injured person on a stretcher, right, as airline workers, left, walk away from the site where an Aeromexico airliner crashed in a field near the airport in Durango, Mexico, Tuesday, July 31, 2018.

Deadly riots rock Zimbabwe's capital as vote results delayed

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Soldiers and police fired live rounds, water cannons and tear gas at furious protesters who threw rocks and burned vehicles Wednesday in Zimbabwe's capital, dashing the optimism of an election that the country hoped would set it on a new course after decades of Robert Mugabe's rule. At least three people were reported killed.

Violence swept through central Harare after an official announcement that the ruling ZANU-PF party had won most of the seats in Parliament, an outcome that enraged opposition supporters who believe they have been cheated of victory.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission's decision to delay announcing the results of the presidential race at least until Thursday—three days after the vote—seemed certain to bring more opposition anger if President Emmerson Mnangagwa is declared the winner. Alternatively, many Zimbabweans won-

der whether the ruling establishment, including the military, would accept a win for the main opposition leader, Nelson Chamisa.

Monday's upbeat spectacle of millions of Zimbabweans voting peacefully was eclipsed 48 hours later by scenes of tanks and other military vehicles speeding through debris-strewn streets and soldiers beating protesters who had blocked main roads and set bonfires. Some journalists also were attacked.

Gunfire was heard downtown throughout the afternoon, including near the ruling party headquarters where protesters had gathered. Police fired tear gas and grabbed more canisters from an officer carrying them in a crate.

Three people were killed, state broadcaster ZBC said. Associated Press journalists saw two bodies and another person who had been shot in the leg. There were pools and trails of blood on the streets.

The riots surged up to the fence of the Rainbow Tow-

ers Hotel & and Conference Centre, where the electoral commission has been announcing results and many international election observers are staying. Inside the main gate, a water cannon mounted on a police vehicle blasted protesters who hurled rocks that bounced off its armored plating.

"They are trying to protest so they can get fair results," said Elisha Pfigu, a 31-year-old street vendor who warily watched soldiers at an intersection.

Pfigu said he was optimistic on election day for the country's first vote without Mugabe, who ruled for nearly four decades, on the ballot.

"Now it's different. It's totally different" he said. "People were happy on Monday. Now they are not happy. We are not going to rest."

Authorities invoked Zimbabwe's Public Order and Security Act, which allows police to ban public meetings or gatherings. The police can also ask the military for help in cases of public disturbanc-

es. Under Mugabe, the law was used routinely to ban anti-government meetings and demonstrations since its enactment in 2002.

Mnangagwa, a former deputy president who succeeded Mugabe after a military takeover in November, blamed the opposition for the violence and said it was "meant to disrupt the electoral process," the state broadcaster reported.

The opposition, in turn, said security forces acted in a "disproportionate and unjustified" way, and it questioned why the military had been deployed.

"Are we in war? Are civilians the enemy of the state?" said Nkululeko Sibanda, spokesman for the Movement for Democratic Change, the main opposition party.

United Nations deputy spokesman Farhan Haq appealed to Zimbabwe "to exercise restraint and reject any form of violence while awaiting resolution of the disputes and announcement of the election results."

Fire victims' relatives sue Greek officials for negligence, felony

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—The relatives of two people killed by Greece's deadliest wildfire in decades filed a lawsuit Wednesday against Greek officials for their response to the disaster, accusing them of negligent manslaughter and felony counts of exposing people to danger.

The victims, teachers who were 70 and 73 years old, were trapped by flames as they attempted to flee their homes in Neos Voutzas, a seaside area neighboring the worst-affected area of Mati, northeast of the Greek capital of Athens. Their burned bodies were found a day later.

Around 90 people are believed to have died in the July 23 wildfire that, fanned by gale-force winds, decimated Greek seaside resort areas. A final death toll is pending as coroners work to identify the remains of victims.

The fire department, which has been issuing the official death toll, said Wednesday night that the bodies of 81 people had been identified. Four more fire victims died in the hospital, while one person remained unaccounted for, it said.

The wife and daughter of the 70-year-old man and the son of the 73-year-old woman filed their lawsuit against Greece's civil protection general secretary, the local regional governor, a local mayor and several officials in the regional civil protection office and in the fire and police departments.

The lawsuit states the man tried to flee but couldn't open the door to his garage because the electricity had failed. He and the woman, who was his tenant, then apparently tried to escape on foot. Their bodies were found some 300-400 meters (yards) from their building.

Separately, the government said it would move ahead with the demolition of illegally constructed buildings in woodland and coastal areas. Officials have blamed illegal construction, among other factors, for contributing to the high death toll in Mati, where there were also narrow streets and several dead ends.

Several areas around Athens initially developed without building permits. Successive governments allowed unauthorized dwellings and buildings to connect to utilities if the owners paid fines and, more recently, property taxes.

Environment Minister Giorgos Stathakis told a news conference Wednesday that there were 2,500 illegally constructed buildings in woodland areas and 700 on beaches in the wider Athens area. Asked specifically about the fire-devastated Mati area, he said "about 50 percent" of the buildings there were legal.

Also Wednesday, Greek authorities arrested a 35-year-old Greek man on suspicion of intentionally setting five fires in the countryside around Marathon, north of Mati—but none of which were related to the Mati fire.

Focus



AP
Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union Dominic Raab, left, and European Chief Negotiator for the United Kingdom Exiting the EU Michel Barnier hold a joint press conference at the European Commission building in Brussels on Thursday, July 26, 2018.

Brexit or Armageddon?

Depends who you ask

LONDON (AP)—Brexit is looming and so is Armageddon, if you believe the headlines in Britain.

Newspapers have been flooded with stories about food shortages, stockpiled medicines, grounded flights and troops on the streets of Britain if the country leaves the European Union early next year without an agreement on the future relationship between the two sides.

Those forecasts came as the positions of both sides appeared to harden and British officials made a series of statements about preparations for a no-deal Brexit that could disrupt trade with Europe. Prime Minister Theresa May did little to ease concerns when she said the government was preparing for every eventuality.

All the talk of dire consequences just underscores the difficulty of finding a way to sever ties developed over decades as time runs out on the negotiations, said Ben Fletcher, director of external affairs for EEF, the manufacturer's association.

"We are attempting to reverse 40 years of integration in a four- to six-week negotiation; that is terrifying," Fletcher said. "This is a degree of complexity like splitting the atom ... We have to understand how hard that is."

Tensions are increasing as time grows short. More than two years after Britain voted to leave the EU, both sides say they need to hammer out an agreement by October to ensure it is approved by all individual countries before the U.K. leaves the bloc on March 29.

Without a deal, 40 years of free trade between Britain and Europe will come to an end, triggering tariffs and border checks that could delay shipments of everything from food and fuel to clothing and cars. More importantly, perhaps, Britain would drop out of Europe-wide agreements that govern areas such as aviation and prescription drugs, threatening to ground flights and disrupt supplies of drugs.

Comments last week by Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab and Health Secretary Matt Hancock about the government's preparations triggered forecasts of supermarkets stockpiling food, trucks backed up for miles at border checkpoints and travelers enduring three-hour waits at passport control.

The comments were a preview of the 70 notices the government had planned to release over the course of the summer, informing businesses and individuals about the steps they should take to prepare for a no-deal Brexit. Following criticism that last week's statements were scare-mongering designed to undermine Brexit, the government now plans to publish the notices in two blocks, one in mid-August and one in September, according to British media reports.

May said that while she expects to negotiate a deal that will keep trade flowing, the government is doing the right thing in preparing for "every eventuality."

"This is not just about stockpiling," she said in an interview with Britain's Channel 5 television. "What it is, is about

making sure that we'll be able to continue to do the things that are necessary once we've left the European Union, if we leave without a deal."

New concerns emerged Tuesday when local government officials in Dover, across the Channel from France, released an assessment of how a no-deal Brexit would affect the area around Europe's busiest ferry port.

The assessment, named Operation Brock, suggests there will be continuous backlog of trucks waiting to cross the English Channel, creating a gridlock as far as 40 miles (65 kilometers) inland. Some 10,000 freight vehicles pass through Dover on peak days, handling one-sixth of the U.K.'s trade in goods, with a value of 119 billion pounds (\$156 billion) a year. Some 99 percent of the freight moved through the port is from other EU countries.

"If increased waiting times persisted, then perishable goods could be damaged and supply chains interrupted," the report said.

The food industry has also issued warnings. Jim Winship, director of the British Sandwich & Food To Go Association, said ingredients like lettuce and tomatoes, many of which come from mainland Europe, might be difficult to obtain.

"There is a risk to the BLT as we know it," Winship said.

While sandwiches may not be the most burning issue facing Britain, the potential fall-



AP
A chicken and bacon club sandwich prepared by co-owner Alex Stone at Trade Essex Road Cafe in London, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018. Brexit is looming and so is Armageddon, if you believe the headlines in Britain. Newspapers have been flooded with predictions that there will be food shortages, grounded flights and troops on the streets if Britain leaves the European Union early next year without an agreement on the future relationship between the two sides.

out goes much deeper.

The pharmaceutical company Sanofi has begun to stockpile more drugs and vaccines in Britain than usual as part of its contingency plans for possible transportation delays after Brexit.

Dublin-based Ryanair, Europe's busiest airline, plans to insert a clause into tickets for the summer 2019 travel season warning customers that their tickets won't be valid if Brexit disrupts flights between Britain and the EU. The airline underscored its concerns about a no-deal Brexit last week, saying the risk "is being underestimated."

It's all gotten to be too much for Brexit supporters like Marcus Fysh, a member

of Parliament from the governing Conservative Party. He accused the government of a scare-mongering campaign designed to convince voters to accept a weaker form of Brexit that will leave the country tied to the EU for years.

"That is irresponsible, scaremongering nonsense and it should stop right now," he told the BBC. "And they should get behind Brexit, which people voted for."

Those briefings came after the government last month released its offer to the EU, which would end free movement of labor and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice but allow for a customs union for trade in goods and agricultural products. That

was quickly rejected by EU negotiator Michel Barnier, who reiterated that Britain can't retain access to the European market unless it accepts the bloc's other basic principles.

Ministers are now touring European capitals trying to convince leaders of EU states that a failure to compromise will hurt their countries as well.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt urged France and Germany to use their influence with the European Commission to prevent a bad outcome.

"There is a real chance of no deal by accident," he told the Evening Standard. "Everyone is assuming, no, no, no, this will never happen. Well, actually, it could."

Off The Wall

Identical twin brothers to wed identical sisters

GRASS LAKE, Mich. (AP)—Two sets of 24-year-old identical twins had their first date together, became engaged at the same time and are now preparing to tie the knot in Michigan this weekend.

Identical twins Krissie and Kassie Bevier will marry Zack and Nick Lewan in Grass Lake on Aug. 3 and 4, the Jackson Citizen Patriot reported. Krissie and Zack's wedding will be held on Friday, while Kassie and Nick will get hitched on Saturday. The four will share their reception Saturday night.

"I'm in disbelief sometimes of just how everything happened," Nick Lewan told WILX-TV.

Kassie Bevier and Nick Lewan met first at Grand Valley State University four years ago in a psychology class. The professor had asked if there were any twins in class, and Kassie and Nick both raised their hands.

"I was looking around and I looked behind and I was like, 'Oh. I'm in trouble now,'" Nick Lewan said.

Kassie and Nick invited their twins on their first date to church one Sunday morning, and Krissie and Zack started dating shortly after.

Nick and Zack Lewan proposed to the Beviers together

on a trip last year to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

"It basically happened at the same time ... which is par for the course for us," Kassie Bevier said. "We do things in twos."

Aquarium recovers stolen shark

LEON VALLEY, Texas (AP)—Two men have confessed to snatching a small shark from a Texas aquarium's interactive touch tank, then whisking it away, wrapping it in a blanket and concealing it in a baby stroller, police say.

Miss Helen, the 16-inch-long (40-centimeter-long) gray horn shark, was returned to the San Antonio Aquarium on Monday night, two days after the heist was captured on surveillance video.

"Sharknapping: Unsuccessful!" the aquarium posted on Facebook afterward.

The surveillance footage shows a man plucking the shark from the tank and carrying it away, off camera, still dripping water. Another

man is then seen depositing a blanket-wrapped item into a stroller and walking off, accompanied by the first man and a woman carrying a child.

Police said the men put the shark into a bucket before placing it into the stroller.

The shark was recovered Monday night from a home filled with fish tanks and other marine life, said Leon Valley Police Chief Joseph Salvaggio.

Salvaggio said the men confessed to the shark snatching, and investigators planned to talk with the woman Tuesday. Salvaggio told San Antonio TV station KSAT that one of the men was knowledgeable about marine life and likely went to the aquarium specifically for that shark.

reported to Colorado Parks and Wildlife that they had seen a man leaving out food in his backyard for bears. Wildlife Manager Matt Thorpe says the resident took pictures and provided them to officials. An investigation found that the man had previously been fined for the same behavior in 2010 and 2012. In Colorado, it's illegal to knowingly feed bears. The first offense carries a \$100 fine. The second violation gives a \$500 fine. Thorpe said Colorado Parks and Wildlife contacted the man on Sunday, who paid the fine on the spot. He can be fined another \$1,000 if he breaks the law again.

National Comedy Center opens in 'I Love Lucy' star's town

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—The National Comedy Center is open for laughs in "I Love Lucy" comedian Lucille Ball's hometown. The \$50 million cultural institution is in the western New York city of Jamestown and tells the story of comedy from its origins to the present with a mix of interactive exhibits, a hologram theater and comedy artifacts such as the late George Carlin's archives. Gov. Andrew Cuomo (KWOH'-moh) on Wednesday helped cut the

ribbon on the nonprofit center, which received \$9 million in state funding. Amy Schumer, Lewis Black and Dan Aykroyd are among comedians set to appear during this week's grand opening celebration. The center was inspired by Ball, who starred as accident-prone Lucy Ricardo on the 1950s sitcom. Jamestown has a museum dedicated to Ball, who said she wanted to see all comedy celebrated as an art form.

Marilyn Manson handcuffed in Maine, but it's just a joke

BANGOR, Maine (AP)—No, Marilyn Manson didn't get arrested in Bangor, Maine. The Bangor Police Department says Manson and an officer were joking around when the rocker was briefly handcuffed. A video of the handcuffing was posted to Manson's Instagram account. Lt. Tim Cotton took to Facebook to say it was good, clean fun. He also quips the officer, Curtis Grenier, is no longer allowed to work backstage "except during Lord of the Dance or anything related to Disney." Manson and Rob Zombie performed Sunday night, wrapping up a three-day Impact Festival featuring rockers such as Anthrax and Slayer.

Science & Technology

For better sleep, doctors suggest low-technology, cheap solutions

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Millions of people struggle to get enough sleep—and to stay alert the next day.

Lots of apps, fitness trackers, smartwatches and even mattress motion sensors claim they can diagnose or treat sleep problems. But sleep disorder doctors say there's little evidence consumer gadgets actually improve sleep.

"The technology can help describe the problem," such as waking repeatedly or too early, said Dr. Douglas Kirsch, president of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. "It does not tell you what the cause is" or how to fix it.

Experts say such products have some value: They make people focus on and try to improve their sleep.

AMERICA'S SLEEP PROBLEM

According to the U.S. Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention, about one-third of adults and two-thirds of high school students report regularly getting less than the recommended amount of nightly sleep—seven hours for adults and eight to 10 hours for teens.

"The average person in America does not spend enough time trying to actually sleep," Kirsch said.

Regularly getting too little rest doesn't just cause fatigue. It can increase risk of accidents, run down your immune system and lead to heart attack, high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, obesity, reduced sex drive and other problems.

NO-TECH STRATEGIES

Many people simply stay up too late, and doctors say going to bed earlier is a good place to start if you're having trouble sleeping.

Block excess noise and light with ear plugs and heavy curtains.

"Make your bedroom a cave ... a quiet, comfortable, cool, dark place," Kirsch advises.

Stick to a consistent sleep schedule, even on weekends, and start winding down your activity an hour before bedtime.

Stop using computer, phone and TV screens well before then and keep them out of your bedroom. Turn your clock's face away from you and try an old technology: Read a book to induce drowsiness.

Good health practices also help. Don't smoke, limit alcohol, stop all caffeine by noon or 1 p.m. and get regular exercise, but well before bedtime. Also, try to avoid dozing off while watching TV in the evening.

Here's how antivirus software works

I've been getting a lot of questions about antivirus software for Windows. Because antivirus software is essential for safety, it's important to know how it works.

Here are some answers:

Q: Once Windows 7 is no longer supported by Microsoft, will antivirus software be enough to protect our PCs?

A: No. Starting in January, 2020, Windows 7 will no longer receive security updates from Microsoft.

If new Windows 7 security flaws are discovered after that, no antivirus program will be enough to protect your PCs. You will need to upgrade to a newer operating system to be safe.

Q: Does Microsoft's free antivirus software conflict with many other antivirus programs?

A: All antivirus programs conflict with each other, which is why you should never run two of them at the same time.

Fortunately, if you have Windows 8.1 or Windows 10, the built-in Windows Defender antivirus software will automatically turn off if you install another antivirus program.

If you use Windows 7, uninstall whatever antivirus program you are currently using before installing a new

TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



one (Defender isn't a full-fledged antivirus program in Windows 7.)

Q: For several years, I've been using the Windows 10 Defender antivirus program as well as Malwarebytes Premium. But now my PC seems to be slowing down; does that mean these two programs conflict?

A: Malwarebytes Premium is an unusual case because it has been upgraded to act as a full-fledged antivirus program. As a result, you should check to make sure that Windows Defender turned itself off when that upgrade occurred.

In the Windows 10 search box, search for "virus," then click on "virus and threat protection," then click on "virus and threat protection settings."

If the switch icon below "real-time protection" is on, Windows Defender is still running. Move the switch to off. If it doesn't stay off, rein-

stall Malwarebytes Premium and check Defender again.

And on another topic:

Q: The File Explorer program constantly opens by itself on my Windows 10 PC. In addition, I find the type size in Windows 10 Mail to be too small. What can I do?

A: Windows 10 provides two ways to prevent File Explorer from opening by itself. One uses the Windows Task Manager to correct a temporary glitch in the program. The other uses the System File Checker software to automatically repair any corrupted files that can cause recurring problems (see tinyurl.com/yak3yf5t).

You can't change the default type size in Windows 10 Mail, which is set to the Calibri font and type size 11. However, you can manually change the font and type size each time you compose an e-mail or reply to one (see tinyurl.com/yclvbrdx).

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Python that went missing during California fire is found

REDDING, Calif. (AP)—Residents of a Northern California neighborhood can breathe a sigh of relief now that a 14-foot python that went missing after a pet store was evacuated during a wildfire has been found safe. Sandra Dodge-Streich, owner of Redding Reptiles, says the snake was placed in a plastic bin and brought to a home after flames moved closer last week. She says the lavender albino reticulated python named Eres slithered out of the bin Saturday. During a search of the neighborhood in South Redding, residents were urged to keep their small pets indoors—though Dodge-Streich said the snake really only has an appetite for chickens. She tells the Record Searchlight newspaper that Eres was discovered Monday coiled up in a milk crate. She says the snake is doing well.

Colorado man fined \$1K for repeatedly feeding bears

DURANGO, Colo. (AP)—A Colorado man has been fined \$1,000 for intentionally feeding bears for the third time in the past eight years. The Durango Herald reports a resident

Life & Style

Thieves steal Swedish royal jewels, escape by speedboat

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Thieves carrying out a daring daytime robbery smashed a security case at a cathedral in Sweden and stole gold and jewel-encrusted crowns from the early 1600s before hopping on bicycles and escaping via a nearby lake, police said.

The two men pulled off the heist at Strangnas Cathedral at noon Tuesday and vanished aboard a speedboat or jet skis into the vast patchwork of lakes around the city, located 60 kilometers (37 miles) west of the Swedish capital of Stockholm, police said.

The stolen artifacts included a gold crown and an orb dating to 1611 that were made for King Karl IX's funeral, as well as a jewel-encrusted crown dating to 1625 that was used in Queen Kristina's funeral. The items were on display at an exhibition, and visitors were inside the cathedral when they were taken.

"The alarm went off when the burglars smashed the security glass and stole the artifacts," Catharina Frojd, a spokeswoman for the 14th century cathedral, told The Associated Press.

Strangnas Cathedral said on its website that the stolen pieces were kept "in accordance with the prevailing safety regulations in locked and alarmed displays." It gave no further details.

Police sent out a helicopter and boat to hunt for the thieves but found nothing. Authorities said no one was hurt in the robbery but didn't provide further details.

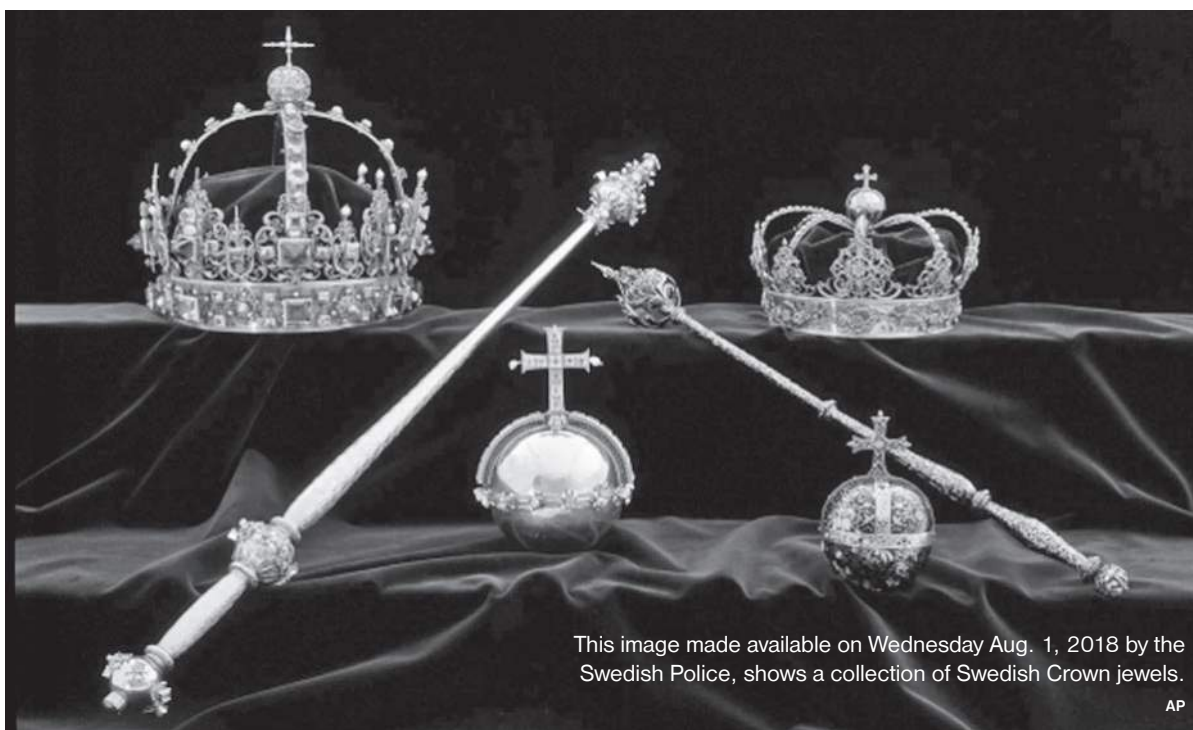
Tom Rowell, a visitor who was eating lunch outside the Lutheran church, said he saw two men running from the cathedral toward a small nearby jetty where a motorboat was moored.

"The two men hurriedly jumped on board and it sped off," Rowell said, adding that they "appeared non-Nordic." He didn't elaborate.

However, police spokesman Stefan Dangardt said "witnesses' testimonies varied quite a bit" and it was also possible the thieves escaped on jet skis.

The men used two stolen black bicycles equipped with baskets and a child's seat to race to the lake, Dangardt added.

On Wednesday, divers were look-



This image made available on Wednesday Aug. 1, 2018 by the Swedish Police, shows a collection of Swedish Crown jewels.

ing for clues in and along the shores of Lake Malaren, Sweden's third-largest freshwater lake. Police said the thieves could have fled further on jet skis.

While the stolen artifacts are of great historic and cultural value, police expressed skepticism about whether the burglary would bring the perpetrators financial gain.

The stolen pieces are "impossible to sell" because of their uniqueness and high visibility, Maria Ellor of the Swedish police's National Operations Department told the Swedish news agency TT.

The theft would be logged at Interpol, enabling an international search, the agency.

Strangnas, a small, quiet town with a population of about 13,000, is popular with Stockholm commuters and tourists, who come to see the cathedral and a street that has been called the prettiest in Sweden.

The Gothic-style cathedral, built between 1291 and 1340, is in the heart of the town. The cathedral's red-brick tower with a black top can be seen for miles (kilometers) around.

The cathedral was closed Wednesday, and a grassy area by the jetty was cordoned off as police inspected the ground for clues. Police also questioned witnesses who were inside the church at the time of the theft and people outside who saw the suspects get away.

The stolen artifacts are funeral regalia, which are placed inside or on top of a coffin to symbolize a deceased royal's identity and social ranking.

While some funeral regalia are kept in the cathedrals of Strangnas, Uppsala and Vasteras, Sweden's crown jewels are in vaults of the treasury under the Royal Castle in Stockholm.

In 2013, 16th-century copies of King Johan III's crown, orb and scepter were stolen from the cathedral in the central Swedish city of Vasteras, 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of the capital Stockholm, during a nighttime burglary. They were eventually found and returned to the cathedral. No one was arrested.

Rowell, the witness, is getting married at the cathedral next weekend.

"It's despicable that people would steal from a holy building," he said.

A look at spectacular jewel thefts over recent years

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—The daring theft of crown jewels dating back centuries from a small Swedish town's cathedral joins a long line of brazen jewelry heists over the years. Other thieves have outwitted armed guards and alarm systems to break into opulent jewelry stores, underground vaults and exhibitions—and even cut through an airport fence to seize their loot.

Some spectacular jewel thefts in Europe in recent years:

THE ITALIAN JOB

In January, thieves stole precious Indian jewels from the famed Al Thani Collection that were on show at the Doge's Palace in Venice, including a pendant featuring a 10-carat diamond. Surveillance footage showed one of the thieves calmly opening a showcase window, pocketing the gems and sauntering off. Police say the alarm was triggered a minute later, giving the thieves time to escape.

FASHION WEEK FRIGHT

In October 2016, robbers allegedly forced their way into the apartment where Kim Kardashian West was staying during Paris Fashion Week, tied her up and stole more than \$10 million worth of jewelry.

Ten people were charged in the case. The alleged mastermind wrote the reality TV star an apology letter from his prison cell.

OFFSCREEN DRAMA AT CANNES

Cannes is known not only for its film festival

glamour but also for dramatic heists.

In 2013 thieves stole Chopard jewelry from a hotel room safe during the festival, a crime that drew parallels to Sofia Coppola's "The Bling Ring," which was screening that year.

Two months later, a lone gunman pulled off one of the biggest jewelry heists of all time, stealing \$136 million worth of diamond jewelry from Cannes' Carlton Hotel — a location for Alfred Hitchcock's classic "To Catch a Thief."

In 2015, raiders—one wearing an old-man mask—walked into the Cartier boutique on Cannes' Croisette seaside promenade in the middle of the morning, and walked out with millions of dollars' worth of jewelry and watches.

AIRPORT HEISTS

European airports have been the crime scene of some jewel thefts.

In a carefully planned 2013 heist, thieves cut through a fence at the Brussels airport, drove to a Switzerland-bound plane and snatched an estimated \$50 million in diamonds.

In 2005, thieves threatened guards and hijacked an armored car from Dutch carrier KLM's cargo ramp at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, a major European transport hub, making off with millions in diamonds and jewelry. Subsequent media reports put the value of the loot at up to \$100 million. "It was a secured area of the airport, so it's a big question how those people could get there," an airline spokesman said at the time.

POSH TRICKSTERS AND CROSS-DRESSING CROOKS

In 2009, two elegantly dressed men robbed the Graff Diamond Store in London's high-end Mayfair district and carried away necklaces, watches, rings and bracelets worth more than 40 million pounds (\$62 million at today's exchange rate), according to Scotland Yard.

While Christmas shoppers stroll outside the posh Harry Winston jewelry shop near Paris' famed Champs-Elysees in 2008, armed thieves—some dressed as women and wearing wigs—entered the store and stole gems and jeweled watches worth up to \$85 million, according to French police.

VAULT BREAK-INS

A gang of mostly elderly men broke into London's diamond district Hatton Garden in 2015, drilling through a concrete safe-deposit vault to steal jewelry, gold and cash worth more than 14 million pounds (\$18 million.)

In 2003, robbers taped over security cameras, disabled the alarm system and broke into the high-security underground vaults of the Diamond Center in Antwerp, the world capital of diamond-cutting, getting away with an estimated \$100 million in goods.

Police said the thieves stood ankle-deep in a pile of diamonds, gold, jewelry, stocks, bonds, cash and lockboxes, and the bounty was so abundant they had to leave a lot behind.

Hemingway story from 1956 published for first time

NEW YORK (AP)—The themes and trappings are familiar for an Ernest Hemingway narrative: Paris, wartime, talk of books and wine and the scars of battle.

But the story itself has been little known beyond the scholarly community for decades: "A Room on the Garden Side," written in 1956, is being published for the first time. The brief, World War II-era fiction appears this week in the summer edition of The Strand Magazine, a literary quarterly which has released obscure works by Raymond Chandler, John Steinbeck and others.

"Hemingway's deep love for his favorite city as it is just emerging from

Nazi occupation is on full display, as are the hallmarks of his prose," Strand Managing Editor Andrew F. Gullis wrote in an editorial note.

Kirk Curnutt, a board member of The Hemingway Society, contributed an afterword for the Strand, saying that "the story contains all the trademark elements readers love in Hemingway."

"Steeped in talk of Marcel Proust, Victor Hugo, and Alexandre Dumas, and featuring a long excerpt in French from Charles Baudelaire's 'Les Fleurs du Mal,' the story implicitly wonders whether the heritage of Parisian culture can recover from the dark taint of fascism," Curnutt wrote.

2 teen street singers take the stage with Cyndi Lauper

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Two North Carolina teens went overnight from singing on a street corner to sharing a stage with Grammy Award-winning singer Cyndi Lauper.

Mya Worley, 14, was singing on a city street last Friday with her 13-year-old brother Ronald on the keyboard, as they have done all summer under their father's guidance, The Charlotte Observer reported. Two women stopped to listen and one suggested they had to get the teens "to play tomorrow."

With Lauper standing nearby, manager Lisa Barbaris approached

Ronald Worley Sr. and asked if his kids would sing Lauper's 1983 hit "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" with the pop icon at a concert.

Less than 24 hours later, the siblings were at the 20,000-seat Spectrum Center.

Mya Rowling sang the first verse and chorus of the song, which was rearranged by Lauper and Rowling to be an almost-gospel-hymn-like number. The only musical accompaniment for her portion was Ronald Jr. on a keyboard.

The crowd roared as Mya held the last note, then gave way to Lau-

per and the upbeat version known to nearly everyone.

As thrilled as Mya and Ronald Jr. were by the experience, it was their father who may have gotten the biggest thrill.

"I'm an '80s child," Ronald Sr. said. "I grew up listening to her music. I always loved Cyndi Lauper. ... So this was just incredible. I tell you, it was so incredible. ... Cyndi wrote some things down on paper for us, so I have a piece of paper with her handwriting on it that we'll never, ever, ever, ever-lose."

Israelis tickled by Sacha Baron Cohen's grotesque caricature

JERUSALEM (AP)—Sacha Baron Cohen is at it again. After tapping into his familiarity with Israel and his fluency in Hebrew to shape previous eccentric personas such as Borat and Bruno, the Jewish comedian has created his most stereotypical Israeli character yet—a grotesque, faux counterterrorism instructor in his new Showtime series “Who is America?”

Retired Colonel Erran Morad has already managed to dupe former Vice President Dick Cheney into signing a waterboarding kit, convinced former Senate majority leader Trent Lott to endorse a plan to arm kindergartners and caused a Georgia state representative to resign after he shouted racial slurs and exposed his rear end in a supposed self-defense drill against homophobic jihadists.

Another of those pranked, disgraced Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore, accused Baron Cohen of preying on Israel's friends in America and seeking to “embarrass, humiliate, and mock” the Jewish state. But in Israel—where Baron Cohen's mother was born and where he spent much time in his youth—people seem to be in on the joke.

“The reaction has mostly been astonishment about the accuracy of the portrayal. He really got some of our traits down,” Einav Schiff, a TV critic for the Yediot Ahronot newspaper, said with a chuckle. “Everyone here knows an



AP
This image released by Showtime shows former Vice President Dick Cheney, left, and actor Sacha Baron Cohen, portraying retired Israeli Colonel Erran Morad in a still from “Who Is America?”

“Erran Morad” but I haven't recognized any outrage or embarrassment about the character. It's mostly been ridicule for these Americans who have fallen for him.”

Typically donning black boots, fatigues and a military-type sweatshirt with inverse Hebrew writing on it, Baron Cohen's Morad character sports a scar in his bushy unibrow and speaks in heavily-accented, broken English peppered with Hebrew expressions and in a choppy cadence typical of Israel's gruff military types. Though he is said to be a colonel, he sometimes refers to himself as a general, major or captain, or alternately some-

one who served in the shadowy Mossad spy agency. With Cheney, the alleged retired operative showed up in a full olive-green military uniform and the insignia of a staff sergeant, none of which seemed to set off any alarm bells with the former U.S. secretary of defense.

It's that type of lunacy that has mostly tickled Israelis. Besides exposing the prejudices of his targets, Baron Cohen's humor has also uncovered the fetishized version of Israel that many of its supposed staunch supporters on the religious right believe exists. Nearly all were drawn to the interviews under the guise of a fake pro-Israel award for their support,

when in fact all it did was expose their ignorance.

In practice, most Israelis are secular, gay-friendly and, even with the country's mandatory military service, have little interest in firearms as recreation. Israeli gun laws are in fact quite stiff and most look at America's obsession with weapons incredulously.

Nowhere is that more evident than in Morad's “kinderguardian” program segment, in which a string of gun-loving conservatives are fooled into believing Israel arms preschoolers to counter school shootings. More astoundingly, they go on to endorse such child-friendly products like “Puppy Pistol,”

“Gunny Rabbit” and the magical “Uzi-corn.”

“The intensive three-week Kinderguardian course introduces specially selected children from 12 to 4 years old to pistols, rifles, semi-automatics, and a rudimentary knowledge of mortars,” former republican congressman Joe Walsh says in one segment. “In less than a month—less than a month—a first-grader can be-

come a first-grenade-er.”

In a subsequent CNN interview, Walsh admitted he was duped by a program that struck him as fishy. “I'm thinking to myself ‘well this is kind of crazy, but it is Israel and Israel is strong on defense,’” he explained.

Such reasoning has raised some concern in Israel that others may be naive enough to take Baron Cohen's spoof literally.

“Yes, your satire was outrageously on point and Col. Erran Morad was spot on. Still, bad enough that Israel gets demonized for the things it actually does, you have to go and make horrifying fake stuff up?” wrote Allison Kaplan Sommer, an English-language columnist for the Haaretz daily. “Satire or not, I'm afraid the American public is going to be left with the impression, that we are, in fact, gun fans when the truth is our gun control is a million times stricter than in the U.S.”

White poet criticized for attempt at black vernacular

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the country's leading liberal publications is apologizing for a poem in which a white writer attempts black vernacular.

In a note posted on its web site last week, The Nation called its decision to publish Anders Carlson-Wee's “How-To” a “serious mistake.” The brief poem is narrated in the voice of a homeless person.

It ran in early July and was widely criticized on social

media, with author Roxane Gay among those condemning it. Carlson-Wee issued a statement on Facebook last week saying that his effort to address the “invisibility” of homelessness was misguided and that the response was “humbling” and “eye-opening.”

Carlson-Wee's books include the poetry collections “Dynamite” and the upcoming “The Low Passions.”

Star Wars jacket expected to fetch \$1.3 million at auction

LONDON (AP)—The jacket worn by actor Harrison Ford in the “Star Wars” film “The Empire Strikes Back” is expected to fetch up to 1 million pounds (\$1.3 million) in an auction of rare

movie memorabilia in Britain next month.

The blue-grey cotton jacket, worn in the 1980 film by Ford's character, Han Solo, is one of more than 600 costumes, original scripts and

props up for auction Sept. 20 at London's BFI Imax.

The auction is organized by the Prop Store, a UK-based film and television memorabilia company.

Other items include a

light saber from “Star Wars Episode III: Revenge Of the Sith,” actor Johnny Depp's costume from the 1990 film “Edward Scissorhands,” and a hat worn by Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump.

Mom sees danger everywhere as daughter leaves for school

DEAR ABBY: I'm the proud mom of a wonderful 21-year-old daughter whom I find myself worrying about more and more lately. She just graduated from our local college and is heading to medical school in another state six hours away.

Rationally, I know she'll be fine and can take care of herself, but I am terrified that something will happen to her and I won't be there. My husband and daughter keep telling me nothing will happen and I need to calm down.

My question is, how do I go about staying calm when there is danger everywhere? She's our only child. Aren't my fears justified? Or am I overreacting like they keep telling me?

WORRIED MOM IN ALABAMA

DEAR WORRIED MOM: You are overreacting. Many parents experience the fears you are having to some degree when their child leaves home. For many of them, it happens when the child boards the school bus at the age of 6. For others it happens when their young adult leaves for college.

While tragedies do sometimes occur, they can happen when a parent is present as well as when their child is absent. These incidents are magnified when they dominate the news cycle. If you are unable to control your anxiety, a licensed therapist may be able to help you regain your balance.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, “Russell,” and I have had

a good relationship for five years. He's black; I'm white. The problem is, on every holiday—Mother's Day, Easter, Father's Day, etc.—Russell and his family go out to dinner and I am not invited. I have a feeling it's because I'm white. His ex-girlfriend was black and she was always invited to family functions.

I love Russell but don't think our relationship will go anywhere because his family doesn't approve of me. My family totally accepts him, by the way.

What should I do? Should I stay in a relationship where I am shunned? He doesn't think it's that big a deal and says I shouldn't let it bother me, but how can it not? His brother's girlfriend is invited. She's black, of course. Help, please.

EXCLUDED IN DELAWARE

DEAR EXCLUDED: You have been seeing Russell for five YEARS? It is a big deal, and you would have to have a hide of Kevlar not to be bothered by it. Have you asked him why you are consistently excluded? Have you asked where he thinks your relationship is going? If not, it's time you did.

Not knowing Russell's family, I don't know whether they may have some other objection to you than the fact that you are white. Regrettably, racism exists in every community to some degree. Without more information, I am reluctant to label them.

DEAR ABBY: Recently I've noticed more people saying

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



“Excuse you” instead of “Excuse me” if someone is in their way. I consider it very rude, since the person being addressed often has no idea he or she is in the way before something is said. What's an appropriate response when someone says “Excuse you”?

EXCUSE ME IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR EXCUSE ME: This is what I would say: “Excuse me? Excuse YOU! If you need to get by, all you have to do is ask politely.”

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



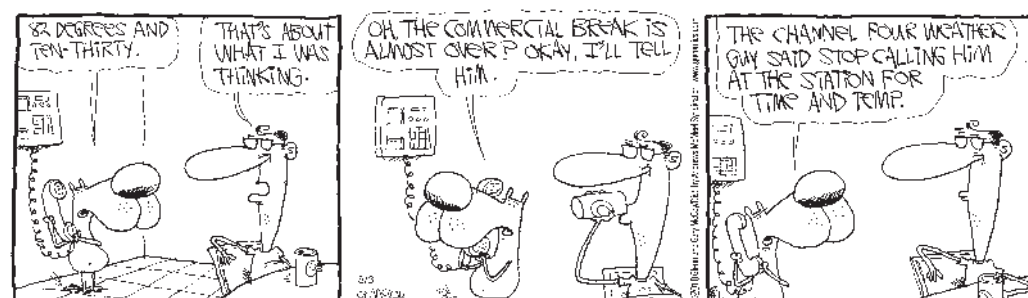
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Temple leader
6 Cam-paigned
9 USMC rank
12 Wanted-poster info
13 "— been had!"
14 Writer Harper
15 New Zealand native
16 Personal information
18 Contacts, e.g.
20 Elevator name
21 Buddy
23 Carefree
24 Wear down
25 Satchels
27 Birds' homes
29 Most timid
31 Of service
35 — Ark
37 King of the jungle

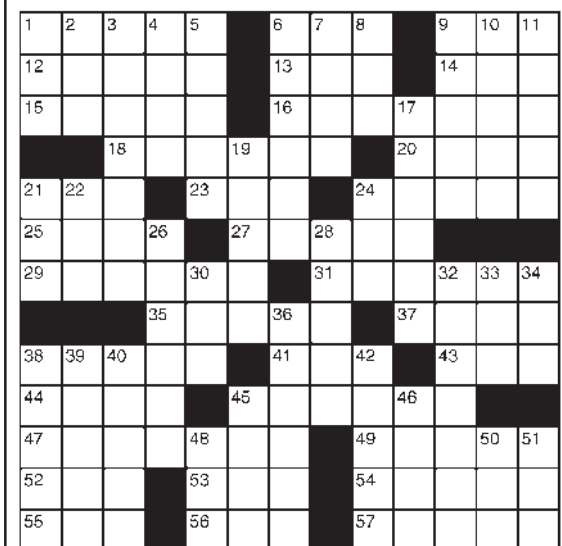
DOWN

38 Quaint oath
41 Spa sounds
43 Vintage
44 Hum-dinger
45 Children's welfare org.
47 "Ray" and "Gandhi," for example
49 Enlists again
52 Poem of praise
53 Browns, on
54 Mountain crest
55 Director Craven
56 "2001" computer
57 Of the Arctic
17 Back-related
19 Dasher's boss
21 Small ammo
22 Fan's cry
24 UFO
26 Parody
28 Japanese fish dish
30 "May-day!"
32 Green energy option
33 Texter's chuckle
34 Finale
36 Gretel's brother
38 Macaroni shape
39 Tour leader
40 Palliative plants
42 Discard
45 Pac-12 team
46 Architect
48 German pronoun
50 School support org.
51 Sun. talk

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	I	T	S	T	O	N	S	P	A	T
O	R	E	M	R	O	E	A	O	N	E
H	A	L	O	A	H	A	—	S	A	I
O	N	L	O	A	N	—	P	L	A	I
S	I	G	—	M	A	D	R	I	G	A
A	B	A	—	I	R	E	—	A	G	E
G	A	L	A	C	T	I	C	—	S	L
O	L	E	—	I	S	P	—	—	—	—
B	U	S	I	E	R	—	S	O	A	V
A	C	H	E	—	A	M	I	—	R	I
G	L	E	N	—	M	A	V	—	S	E
S	A	S	—	P	I	E	—	E	T	N

Yesterday's answer 8-3



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Evangeline Lilly, 39; Michael Ealy, 45; Martha Stewart, 77; Tony Bennett, 92.

Happy Birthday: Don't make a fuss over matters that aren't that important. Concentrate on how best to use your skills and knowledge. Share your feelings; bring about personal changes that will lead to greater freedom and happiness. A moderate lifestyle will allow you to do the things that will bring you pleasure. The happier you are, the better you will do. Your numbers are 2, 14, 21, 26, 30, 33, 33, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Lend a helping hand or take part in activities that include your lover or the youngsters in your life. Refuse to let a last-minute change someone makes disrupt your plans. Set a steady pace and live up to your expectations. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ask an expert if you are uncertain about something you are considering. Keep a low profile when dealing with people who tend to exaggerate or make empty promises. Stick to what you know; concentrate on personal growth. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of every detail before you venture down a new path or decide to take a trip. Search for deeper meaning in situations that you feel have potential. Talking in person is favored if you want to resolve an issue. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your imagination; you'll come up with a way to utilize your space better. A project you want to pursue will interest someone

who may want to partner with you. Socializing or attending a reunion will lead to an interesting encounter. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think your way through a challenge. Sticking to basic facts will help you keep things in perspective and maintain a budget you can afford. Don't give in to someone pestering you to do or give more. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's up to you to bring about change if that's what you want. If you sit back and wait, nothing will be accomplished. Set your goals and don't stop until you reach your destination. Change will bring you peace of mind. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't give up on someone or something that seems uncertain. Go the extra mile; your efforts will pay off. Understanding what's required and speaking from the heart will help to bring about the changes you want to see happen. ★★★

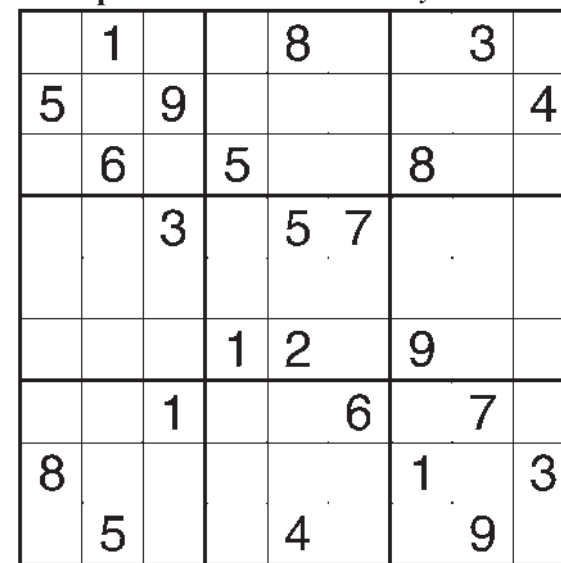
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stick to what you know and do well. Don't let anyone bait you into a no-win situation. An argument will only make matters worse and upset you, as well as friends and family. Offer love and peace and concentrate on creative endeavors. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An argument over money or legal matters won't help you resolve anything. Use your intelligence, and don't make hasty decisions based on an assumption. Take your time, get the facts and be willing to compromise or offer incentives. ★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/03

Difficulty: ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	1	5	6	2	8	4	3	9
4	8	2	9	3	5	1	7	6
9	3	6	1	4	7	8	2	5
6	5	3	4	8	9	7	1	2
2	9	7	3	6	1	5	4	8
1	4	8	5	7	2	6	9	3
3	6	1	8	9	4	2	5	7
5	7	9	2	1	6	3	8	4
8	2	4	7	5	3	9	6	1

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your serious attitude will help you bring about positive changes at home and within your important relationships. A promise will be kept, and plans can be put into motion. Love and romance will improve your personal life. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful what you offer or promise to do. Taking on too much will cause problems for you in your personal life. A change of plans will catch you off guard. Don't spend more to compensate for someone taking advantage of you. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look over contract renewals and negotiate a deal that will help you save some cash. Call upon a friend if it will help you finish something you cannot do on your own. Favors will be granted, and partnerships will develop. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unpredictable and shrewd. You are ambitious and brave.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HORSE TRAINING

Solution: 8 letters

N H G H U R D L E G S T O O B
I A N S P M U J T E K N A L B
A L I P S N I E R P O T S U A
R T W R G E M T S U B T M R L
T E O E T I N G E U E E A E A
I R B T T S N R N P K C D K N
A F E N A R I E E A L B A S O C
G E C A R I G E A L H Y P I R E
N N L C T A I W Q T E T R T S
I C D D S I O L R E C L A S R
V E L S I L B E D E L L O K E
I T E E L R B A R N K C C P N
R R I O A I B I H R O I S E N
D O F E L D D A S U R B D U A
S T E E R E N W O T G R O O M

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8/3

Balance, Blanket, Bond, Boots, Bowing, Bridle, Canter, Dams, Direction, Dressage, Driving, Equestrian, Fence, Field, Follow, Gait, Groom, Habit, Halter, Harness, Hurdle, Jump, Lead, Legs, Liberty, Lunge, Manners, Muscle, Owner, Pace, Pole, Race, Reins, Rings, Run, Saddle, Speed, Steer, Step, Stop, Stroke, Talk, Time, Trail, Train, Treat, Trick, Trot, Trust, Turn, Walk

Yesterday's Answer: Lessons

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Classified Ads

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

BAKER
CARPENTER
TAILOR
VINTNER
PLUMBER

08-04-2017 12:42:18 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by AD ONE 11-01-18 07:14:00

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Double B Corporation
1 Catering Manager: \$1200-\$1800/mo. High proficiency in cooking Korean cuisine with a specialty in Korean rice cakes is required for this position. Applicants selected for interview will be tested for the above cooking proficiency as part of the interview process.
Email resume to doubleb@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Good News Mission Center, Inc.
1 Pastor
\$1,200-\$1,500/mo. Master of Divinity (M. Div.) and speaking fluency in Korean language required.
Email resume to goodnews@hanmisaipan.com.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Grace Corporation
1 Automotive Mechanic (Radiator): \$7.25/hr. At least five years of experience, and specialty in radiator repair required.
Email resume to grace@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Han Kyung Corporation
1 Cook (Korean cuisine): \$7.25-\$8.00/hr. Cooking license in Korean cuisine and at least 2 years of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine is required.
Email resume to hankyung@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
K.L. Corporation
1 Restaurant Manager (Korean cuisine): \$7.25/hr. At least 2 years' managerial experience in a restaurant specializing in Korean cuisine required.
1 Cook (Korean cuisine): \$7.25/hr. At least 2 years' professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required.
Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Neptune Trading Corporation
1 Purchasing Manager: \$7.25-\$7.50/hr. 7 years of purchasing and wholesale management experience required. Korean language fluency required.
1 Bookkeeper: \$7.25-\$7.50/hr. 4 year college degree and 2 years experience required.
Email resume to neptunetrading@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
P & P Elevator Co.
1 Bookkeeper/Sales Representative \$7.25/hr. College degree in business field with coursework in accounting and/or bookkeeping required.
Email resume to pnpelevator@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Saipan Woori Tour
1 Tour Manager/Tour Guide: \$1300-\$1700/mo. At least five years of management and one year of tour coordination experience is required for this position. High school diploma required. Korean language proficiency required for communication with partnering companies and customers in and from South Korea.
Email resume to saipanwoori@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Treasure Island Corporation
1 Store Manager: \$1,200-\$1,400/mo. At least 2 years of experience as a clothing store manager is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required.
Email resume to treasure@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Vienna Corporation
1 Operations Manager: \$1,200-\$1,400/mo. Bachelor's degree and 2 years management experience required. Speaking and writing fluency in Korean language required.
Email resume to vienna@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Wing Corporation
1 Cook (Korean cuisine): \$7.25/hr. At least 2 years of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required.
Email resume to wing@hanmisaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Yonsei Academy Corporation
1 Piano teacher: \$1,200-\$1,800/mo. Bachelor's degree in music education and at least five years of experience required.
Email resume to yonsei@hanmisaipan.com

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement
One (1) SHEET METAL WORKER
▪ Fabricate and install sheet metal & fiberglass products & equipment such as ducts, control boxes, drain pipes & furnace casings
▪ Set-up and operate fabricating equipment and machines, soldering and welding equipment
▪ Must be knowledgeable in interpreting plans and specifications
▪ Preferably knowledgeable in duct size calculation
▪ Minimum 5-year work experience required
▪ Must possess good communication skill
E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Emerald Pacific Group Corp.
(3) Counter And Rental Agent
Requirements:
1. College graduate with any two (2) years course
2. With (2) years experience in car rental business
3. Fluent in speaking Korean, Chinese and Japanese
4. Computer literate
5. Willing to work on midnight shift
Email Resume at Saipan@nationalcarpacific.com or Call at 670-288-8338 for inquiries

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
TagaPacific CNMI Inc.
(3) Counter And Rental Agent
Requirements:
1. College graduate with any two (2) years course
2. With (2) years experience in car rental business
3. Fluent in speaking Korean, Chinese and Japanese
4. Computer literate
5. Willing to work on midnight shift
Email Resume at Saipan@nationalcarpacific.com or Call at 670-288-8338 for inquiries

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
WINCHELL'S DONUTS
4 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage ranges from \$7.05/hr to \$8.50/hr. Must be a high school graduate with a few months to 1 year experience in baking; must be able to read, write and speak basic English; must be capable of lifting at least 50lbs and has basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese and other foreign languages is highly preferred.
Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and willing to undergo drug test.
Please email your resume to jobapplicant2014@gmail.com

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement
Five (5) TECHNICIANS-AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
- Install and repair of Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
- Install and repair of Chilled Water Systems
- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and WT Control Systems
- Perform Computer-based Control System
Other requirements:
- Minimum 5-year work experience required
- EPA Section 608 (Certification required)
- Maintenance Technician & Electrical Safety Course in accordance with 29CFR 1910 Standard (Preferable)
- Must possess good communication skill
One (1) HVAC/R SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- Knowledgeable of HVAC-R Equipment and Parts sale
- Knowledgeable of product selection, listing of order and inventory
- Must be proficient on Computer Software such as Peachtree Accounting System, MS Excel and MS Word
- Minimum 5-year work experience required
- Must possess good communication skill
E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

Faith, Hope and

KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) – Victim Hotline Coordinator

For more information, job description can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Ground Floor, Old Sister Remedios' School in Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Completed application form, copy of diploma with highest achievement, resume, current police clearance valid for six months, copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
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THE JUDICIARY - COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office

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Telephone: (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702 • Website: www.justice.gov.mp



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Re-Announcement # JVA18-30

DUTIES: The successful candidate will monitor and supervise participants of the CNMI Drug Court by: (1) ensuring public safety; (2) deterring non-compliant behavior; (3) providing accountability in treatment programs; (4) supporting participants' progress; (5) detecting and providing early intervention; and (6) extending the treatment into the law enforcement community. The Compliance Officer will work directly with individuals who have substance abuse addictions and will report to the Community Supervision Officer as the direct supervisor, Drug Court Manager, and court regarding participant compliance in the program. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provides assistance to the Drug Court Manager in monitoring participants;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for Drug Court hearings;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual drug court cases from resource areas including, as necessary, participants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc;
- Contacts public and private community resources to secure services for participants. Maintains continuing and ongoing relationships with the agencies as necessary;
- Coordinates enforcement of Drug Court orders, including curfews and home detention with law enforcement officers designated to Drug Court;
- Maintains contact with local law enforcement agencies, Drug Court Judge, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the Attorney General, employers, local social service agencies, schools, and others;
- Coordinates investigations in preparation of court-ordered reports staffing and hearings.
- Maintains case records and statistical data for evaluation purposes and for submission to the Drug Court Manager;
- Attends and participates in Drug Court staffings and hearings;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conferences, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Follows policies for monitoring court-ordered payments, such as restitution, fines, and child support payments;
- Works closely with Drug Court caseworkers to support case management, coordination of services, and monitoring;
- Conducts gender-specific drug testing in accordance with the CNMI Drug Court protocols;
- Exercises good judgment in stressful situations
- Proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel and knowledgeable about the use of data systems.
- Complies with applicable local and federal laws, including the Special Act for Firearms Enforcement (SAFE), and court rules and policies; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a valid driver's license and a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) associate's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in Criminal Justice or related field, plus at least two years experience as a law enforcement officer; OR (2) four years experience as a law enforcement officer. Military experience may be considered; successful candidates with only military background must complete additional law enforcement training during the probationary period.

Report writing skills and case management experience would be preferred. Criminal background check will be conducted. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$25,000 - \$28,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

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THE JUDICIARY - COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION OFFICER

Re-Announcement # JVA18-31

DUTIES: The successful candidate will actively monitors Drug Court participants outside of the Drug Court setting by conducting home and job visits. All client contact and visitations are documented to help encourage positive participant behavior. The Community Supervision Officer will work under the Drug Court Manager to monitor and supervise participants by: (1) ensuring public safety; (2) deterring non-compliant behavior; (3) providing accountability in treatment programs; (4) supporting participants' progress; (5) detecting and providing early intervention; and (7) extending the treatment into the law enforcement community.

The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ensures random drug testing and community supervision practices are in accordance with Drug Court policies and procedures;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for drug court hearings;
- Coordinates criminal background checks for drug court participants;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the participants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Documents facts with respect to the drug court participants' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while on supervision;
- Reports investigative findings and prepares recommendations for the proper case disposition;
- Appears in drug court hearings with the ability to provide testimony on drug court cases;
- Provides periodic interviews of participants to determine effectiveness of Drug Court mandates, supervision, counseling, etc.
- Maintains ongoing relationship with participants throughout the duration of the program;
- Follows policies for monitoring court-ordered payments, such as restitution, fines, and child support payments;
- Plans office activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions;
- Maintains accurate, neat, legible and up to date case records in the prescribed form;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conference, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Responsible for and conducts gender-specific, observed drug testing in accordance with CNMI Drug Court protocols;
- Assesses and reviews supervision and drug testing protocols and terms and conditions of supervision regularly to ensure they are still effective for the target populations;
- Complies with applicable local and federal laws, including the Special Act for Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) and court rules and policies; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a valid driver's license and a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) bachelor's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in Criminal Justice or a related field, plus at least six months experience as a law enforcement officer; or (2) six years experience as a law enforcement officer. Military experience may be considered; successful candidates with only military background must complete additional law enforcement training during the probationary period.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

Applicants must be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$28,000 - \$30,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
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This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

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Job Vacancy Announcements

YANO Enterprises, Inc. dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Waitress (2): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (6): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of all positions listed above **except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience)** are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up
at MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

Nadal leads money rankings, Djokovic closes in

NEW YORK—French Open winner Rafael Nadal heads into the US Open series as the leading money earner on the men's ATP World Tour, followed by Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, according to Forbes.

The Spaniard is the defending champion at the US Open, the season's last grand slam tournament, which starts Aug. 27 in New York.

With a record prize money pot of \$40.9 million at the US Open, including \$3.8 million each for the men's and women's champions, expect to see some changes in the money list once the US hardcourt swing is over in September.

The top-ranked Nadal earned most of his on-court winnings this season on his preferred clay surface, winning events in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Rome before clinching a record-extending 11th title at Roland-Garros in Paris in June.

Federer, who had been leading the prize money list at the start of the season after successfully defending his Australian Open title, has slipped to second place after skipping the French Open and exiting Wimbledon in the quarterfinals.

Djokovic entered the top-three for the first time this season after he won the Wimbledon title. The former top-ranked Serb had initially struggled in his comeback from elbow surgery at the start of 2018 before he finally found his groove on the grass courts of the All England Club in July, where he picked up \$3 million for winning the men's title.

Another notable mover in the Top 10 is John Isner, who followed up his maiden Wimbledon semi-final with a win at last week's Atlanta Open, his



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Serbia's Novak Djokovic during their men's singles semifinals match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London, Saturday July 14, 2018.

second victory of the season on US hardcourt after taking the title in Miami in the spring.

Meanwhile, serve and warm-up clocks making their ATP and WTA main draw debuted last Monday will be a positive for players, even routine-filled server Nadal, predicted the ATP Tour's officiating head.

"There may be some bumps along the way but I think in the long run it's going to be a positive for everybody," ATP executive rules and competition vice president Gayle Bradshaw said.

"I'm optimistic this is really going to be a big plus. I think

there's some anxiety because it's new, but once they get out and try it they will be fine with it."

The US Open tested the clocks in 2017 qualifying and announced plans to use them in main draw matches when this year's Grand Slam event begins August 27 on the New York hardcourts.

The ATP, WTA and US Tennis Association agreed on a protocol that would allow the clocks to be used in pre-US Open events so players could better adjust to the change.

"For myself, it's not going to be easy," said Japan's 20th-ranked Kei Nishikori, the 2014 US Open runner-up.



"I'm not going to have time to think much about where to put my serve between the points and with the heat it's going to be a little bit tougher I think."

"There are many different players. Some like to play quick. Some guys like to take a lot of time between points. It might be good for fans if they want to see more points and quicker points. I don't know if it's good for players."

Bradshaw says players such as Nadal, who makes several adjustments before serving, or Novak Djokovic, who likes lots of ball bouncing, will adjust.

"Both those guys, when they see the time, will adapt," he said. "Rafa, I think it's going to be a benefit, wearing

down other guys after chasing down his balls."

Players and fans both called for faster pace of play, said Bradshaw, who noted ATP directors will meet in New York to consider using the clocks tour-wide next year.

Clocks won't be in place in 2018 ATP Tour events after the US Open except the Next

Gen event in Milan where they were tested last year.

A warm-up clock will hasten the pre-match process, allowing players five minutes for hitting and another minute to prepare before the start.

"They don't have to get the ball in play. They just have to be ready to play," Bradshaw said.

Heisman winner Derrick Henry ready to dominate for Titans



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Derrick Henry has patiently waited for his

chance to shine and now heading into his third NFL season the 2015 Heisman Trophy winner will have his chance.

Henry isn't sharing any specific goals for yards or touchdowns, but the Tennessee Titans running back made one thing clear: He is looking forward to a big season.

"I definitely want to be dominant this year," Henry said, adding that he plans to make the most of any opportunities he gets. The former Alabama standout said he just wants to "make plays for this offense, be a consistent back. Make plays any chance that I'm in there and just do what I'm asked."

And above all else, Henry wants to "help this team win games."

The soft-spoken Henry gave a glimpse of just what he could do in the NFL in the Titans' comeback victory in Kansas City, running for 156 yards for the second-best

playoff performance in franchise history.

But Henry doesn't define being dominant by putting up big numbers.

Henry's definition is "having a great game every game and have an impact every game at my position. How I make plays and what I do throughout the game to help this team win."

There were questions why general manager Jon Robinson used his third pick in the second round in 2016 to select Henry only weeks after trading for DeMarco Murray, the 2014 NFL Offensive Player of the Year. Turned out to be a good move; the Titans cut Murray in March after his production dropped last season.

They also signed Dion Lewis to join Henry in the backfield, but the 6-foot-3, 247-pound Henry led the Titans with 744 yards rushing last season despite starting only two games and getting eight fewer carries than Murray.

"Dions' a great guy, and we've been getting along very well," Henry said. "Very excited to have a tandem together."

Wade hints at return for 16th season with Heat or Lakers



LOS ANGELES—As the Miami Heat sort matters out with Dwyane Wade for next season, a possible hint may have come from Wade's recent social media posts.

The mention of Los Angeles, California seems out of place, but then not really.

Los Angeles is closer to China, the center of the movie industry his wife, Gabrielle Union, is heavily involved in, and home to best friend LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Another angle for the City of Angeles destination comes from reports that Wade's close friend Udonis Haslem might consider playing in China and both went there for marketing reasons.

Should Wade return to Mi-

ami, the Heat's situation at shooting guard becomes even more crowded, so the Houston Rockets allegedly offered to help the situation via a Ryan Anderson swap.

Including the 15 percent trade kicker, Tyler Johnson's and Anderson's contracts are about the same, but Anderson is 4 years older and would take minutes away from James Johnson, and the development of Bam Adebayo or Yante Maten.

Next year Anderson's contract will be an expiring one, so a bit easier to trade, but doesn't help getting out of the luxury tax situation this season.

If the Rockets sign Carmelo Anthony, as expected, they'll have too many forwards and a lack of depth at shooting guard, which Tyler Johnson might help fix.

In Cleveland, a person fa-

miliar with the negotiations says free agent guard David Nwaba has agreed to sign with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Nwaba, who played for the Chicago Bulls last season, will join the Cavs once contract terms are finalized, said the person who spoke Wednesday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because negotiations between the sides is are ongoing.

Yahoo Sports first reported Nwaba's agreement.

The 25-year-old Nwaba averaged 7.9 points, 4.7 rebounds and 23.5 minutes in 70 games—21 starts—for the Bulls. Chicago revoked its qualifying offer to Nwaba, who received interest from Indiana as a free agent.

At 6-foot-4, Nwaba is a solid defender and better-than-average shooter who will like-

ly join Cleveland's rotation and give coach Tyronn Lue depth as the Cavs try to stay competitive following LeBron James' exit as a free agent.

Nwaba previously played with the Los Angeles Lakers and in Cleveland will be reunited with former teammates Jordan Clarkson and Larry Nance Jr.

In San Antonio, the Spurs announced they waived Brandon Paul.

The 27-year-old former Illinois guard saw limited playing time in his first NBA seasons, appearing in 64 games last season while averaging 2.3 points and 1.1 rebounds in 9.0 minutes.

Paul reached double figures in five games with the Spurs, netting a career-high 18 points in a 108-94 loss to the Celtics on Oct. 30, 2017.

Gray chased in 3rd, as Orioles upset Yankees



NEW YORK

(AP)—Sonny Gray was chased in the third inning by the team with worst record in the majors, big league-loss leader Alex Cobb ended a nine-start winless streak and the Baltimore Orioles beat the New York Yankees 7-5 on Wednesday.

Despite what appeared to be a midgame lecture in the dugout by third base coach Phil Nevin during a rain delay, New York (68-38) dropped 5 1/2 games behind Boston (75-34) heading into a four-game series at Fenway Park starting Thursday.

Gray (8-8) allowed seven runs, eight hits and two walks in 2 2/3 innings, raising his ERA to 5.56. He was booed as he walked off the mound and was replaced by Lance Lynn.

Cobb (3-14) had been 0-7 since winning at the New York Mets on June 5, losing his last five outings. He breezed against the Yankees with an early 7-1 lead, allowing one run and seven hits in six innings and stopping Baltimore's streak of 11 consecutive road losses.

Gleyber Torres homered twice for New York, a solo drive in the second and a three-run shot in the ninth.

Astros 8, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Marwin Gonzalez hit two of Houston's four home runs, and the Astros knocked Seattle Mariners from the lead for the second wild card in the American League.

After a five-game losing streak, the Astros rebounded to win the final two games of the series. Houston has a five-game cushion over Seattle in the AL West and dropped the Mariners into a tie with surging Oakland for the second AL wild-card spot. Seattle led the A's by 11 games in the middle of June, but has seen the entire lead disappear over the past six weeks.

Gonzalez hit a solo home run off Wade LeBlanc (6-2) with two outs in the second inning and added a two-run shot in the fourth. Jake Marisnick, recalled from the minors before the game, added a two-run shot off LeBlanc and Max Stassi greeted reliever Nick Vincent with a three-run homer in the fifth.

Cubs 9, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Cole Hamels had little trouble in his return to the National League, keeping Pittsburgh in check over five innings to lead Chicago.

Hamels (6-9), acquired in a trade with Texas last week, gave up one unearned run on three hits. The four-time All-Star struck out nine and



walked two to pick up his first win for a National League team in more than three years.

Willson Contreras went 3 for 4 with a home run and three RBI for the Cubs. Jason Heyward and Ben Zobrist had three hits apiece while Kyle Schwarber and Javy Baez each added two hits and an RBI for Chicago.

The Cubs wasted little time jumping on Pittsburgh rookie Nick Kingham (5-6), touching him for four runs in the first inning to give Hamels plenty of breathing room.

Nationals 5, Mets 3

In Washington, Tommy Milone worked seven strong innings to get his first win in more than a year, Anthony Rendon homered and Washington beat New York to move back above .500.

The Nationals followed their 25-4 blowout of the Mets on Tuesday night by jumping on Noah Syndergaard (6-2) early. Bryce Harper singled in the first inning to drive in Trea Turner, who had stolen second. In the third, Rendon got hold of a hanging curveball for his 16th homer this season, scoring Turner.

Rendon has six RBI in two games since returning after the birth of his first child.

Filling in for the injured Stephen Strasburg, Milone (1-0) mixed his pitches effectively and faced little stress in the second start of his second stint with Washington.

Indians 2, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Carlos Carrasco struck out 10 in 7 1/3 innings, winning his fourth straight start since returning

from the disabled list to carry Cleveland past Minnesota.

Brad Hand got the last five outs for his 26th save of the season and second for Cleveland. The Indians stretched their lead over the Twins in the AL Central to 10 games.

Carrasco (13-5), who missed three weeks with a bruised elbow before his reinstatement July 6, has 63 strikeouts in his last eight starts.

Athletics 8, Blue Jays 3

In Oakland, Sean Manaea pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Jonathan Lucroy drove in four runs and Oakland completed a season sweep of Toronto.

Manaea (10-7) allowed five hits, struck out five and walked two. The A's won all seven games between the two teams for their first season

sweep of the Blue Jays.

Franklin Barreto homered and had three RBI for the Athletics. Lucroy added three hits.

Rays 7, Angels 2

In St. Petersburg, Willy Adames homered and drove in two on the day Tampa Bay gave him the regular shortstop job.

Adames drove in a run with a two-out single off starter Nick Tropeano (4-6) in the fourth inning, then scored on Mallex Smith's triple. Adames led off the sixth with his fourth home run to make it 4-2.

Jake Bauers added a two-run homer in the ninth for the Rays, his ninth of the season and third in three games.

Jake Faria, pitching for the first time since going on the disabled list with a left oblique strain June 22, got the win in the third relief ap-

pearance of his career.

Royals 10, White Sox 5

In Chicago, Alex Gordon hit a two-run homer and drove in four, helping Kansas City pound sloppy Chicago.

Jakob Junis (6-11) pitched 5 2/3 innings of four-run ball in his first win since May 18. The 24-year-old right-hander was 0-8 with a 6.67 ERA in his previous 10 starts.

Chicago lost for the sixth time in seven games. Yoan Moncada broke out of a slump with his fifth career lead-off homer, two hits and two walks, but he also committed one of two costly errors for the White Sox.

Dylan Covey (4-7) was charged with seven runs, four earned, and five hits in 4 1/3 innings, dropping to 1-5 with an 8.89 ERA in his last six starts.

Dodgers 6, Brewers 4, 10 innings

In Los Angeles, Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer—his second of the game—in the 10th inning, rallying the Dodgers past the Brewers to snap a three-game skid.

The win was also highlighted by Brian Dozier's homer in his Dodgers' debut after arriving from Minnesota on Tuesday.

All-Star Matt Kemp ended an 0-for-26 skid with a single leading off the inning against Matt Albers (3-3). Grandal followed with his 19th homer after the Dodgers had blown a 4-2 lead.

The Brewers tied it 4-all in the eighth. Mike Moustakas doubled off reliever Scott Alexander, who gave up three walks—one intentional—before Manny Pina singled in Ryan Braun.

Dylan Floro (4-2) got the win after retiring the side in the 10th.

Tigers 7, Reds 4

In Detroit, Jose Iglesias drove in three runs, Jim Adduci homered and Detroit survived the loss of pitcher Mike Fiers to an early injury to beat Cincinnati.

Fiers left after the second with a bruised left shin, sustained on Mason Williams' comebacker. X-rays on Fiers' shin were negative, and it was unclear whether he will make his next scheduled start.

Drew VerHagen (2-2) followed as the first of six relievers and pitched three scoreless innings. Shane Greene worked the ninth for his 23rd save in 26 chances.

Giants' Cueto to have season-ending Tommy John surgery

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The San Francisco Giants say right-hander Johnny Cueto will have season-ending Tommy John surgery.

Cueto will be operated on by Dr. Neal ElAttrache in Los Angeles on Thursday. San Francisco announced Wednesday that Cueto would need the surgery, two days after placing him on the disabled list.

Manager Bruce Bochy said earlier this week that Cueto's

elbow injury had "been lingering quite a while."

The 32-year-old Cueto is 3-2 with a 3.23 ERA. He was on the 60-day DL earlier this year with an elbow injury.

Cueto will be out until at least late in the 2019 season. He signed a \$130 million, six-year contract prior to the 2016 season, keeping him under contract through 2021.

In Boston, the Red Sox put ace Chris Sale on the disabled list Tuesday with left shoul-

der inflammation, meaning he will miss his scheduled start this week against the New York Yankees.

Sale said the soreness is in the same spot as usual after a start, but he wasn't recovering as quickly. Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski said there were no plans for an MRI.

"It's more of a short-term type thing," Dombrowski said. "But because it's Chris, it becomes much more of a

focus, understandably so."

Sale had been scheduled to start the opener of a four-game series against the Yankees on Thursday night, and lefty Brian Johnson will make the start instead. Boston led New York by a season-high six games in the AL East heading into Tuesday night's games.

The move was retroactive to Saturday, meaning Sale could start again on Aug. 7, when Boston plays the Toronto Blue Jays.

Back in Top 50, Woods ramping up for busy stretch

9 teams sign up for Emon Lodge caging

Nine squads have registered to compete in the Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood League that is tentatively set to kick off on Aug. 19 at the Kolberville Gymnasium. The list includes KGE, MJD, Blu Haus, Armatech, Imperial Pacific, Islander/Alberto Catering, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel, and Kanoa Resort.

The league is a mixed masters division with each team allowed to have 10 players in the 40-and-above age group and five in the

39-and-under. Representatives of participating squads are asked to list the complete names of their players and their chosen team jersey color.

Teams should also provide organizers with a copy of the filled-out registration and waiver forms.

Game schedule and other details of the league will be discussed once teams have met the league requirements.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Lito Espino at 285-6679, or Boy Garcia at 989-6386. (PR)



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Armatech's Bruce Berline, left, tries to tap the ball away from Shirley's Perry Inos, while Haejun Park closes in for help defense during the fourth quarter of their game in the Emon Lodge caging in 2016 at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

AP
Tiger Woods of the US prepares to putt on the 3rd green during the second round of the British Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie, Scotland, Friday July 20, 2018.



MISSOURI—Tiger Woods returned to the top 50 of the world rankings for the first time since 2014 this week, and his comeback is about to shift into a higher gear.

Woods, whose jump to No. 50 got him into the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational this week, is now planning to play in five of the next six tournaments, including next week's PGA Championship in St. Louis.

The 42-year-old—who hasn't competed in three consecutive weeks in more than five years and is returning from his fourth back sur-

gery—told reporters Wednesday that he has been planning for the busier schedule since he realized his body could handle it a few months ago.

"Early part of the summer, (I realized) if I played well, this is what I was going to have to endure, coming with a pretty big schedule at the very end," Woods said. "We built a pretty good physical game plan for it. My training schedule, how to build myself, my recovery breaks—even had to factor in how much I can practice, just to make sure I'm physically fit enough to get through this section."

"But I also want to play well and win tournaments through this. I feel like my body is good. I need to keep it that way. I still need to train really hard and limit how much I do practice, the wear and tear on the body, because I'm going to be putting it through its paces in tournament play, which as we all know, we hit the ball harder in tournaments than we do in practice."

The PGA Tour confirmed that Woods committed to play in the first two events of the

FedExCup playoffs at the end of August, the first time he will do so since 2013, and will very likely qualify for the third. He is currently 47th in the FedExCup standings.

This week, Woods will attempt to win the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational for the ninth time. The most recent of those victories was also the last time Woods won a tournament, back in 2013. He hasn't been eligible to play in an WGC event since slipping outside the top-50 in the world rankings in 2015, but his climb back up the charts this year has been steady.

"I made some tweaks and some changes in my game and it paid off," Woods said. "This entire year has been one that I've been evolving and changing a few things."

On Wednesday, Woods also reflected on being in contention at the British Open at Carnoustie last month, where he finished in a tie for sixth after holding the lead briefly during the final round.

"As I said, it was going to sting for a while, and it certainly does because I had a great chance at it," he said. "I

played myself into a great position ... My game plan played myself right into the lead. So that part I was very positive about. But just the way I made a couple of mistakes there at 11 and 12 ended up costing me the tournament."

Woods is now looking to keep progressing in hopes of qualifying for the United States Ryder Cup team. He'll play in the Northern Trust Aug. 23-26 and the Dell Technologies Championship Aug. 29-Sept. 3, but at No. 20 in the U.S. team standings, Woods is unlikely to nab one of the top eight spots on points, which are determined following the PGA Championship.

Three additional spots will be named by captain Jim Furyk following the Dell tournament, with the final spot scheduled to be announced after the BMW Championship, slated to be completed on Sept. 9.

Asked how he, as vice captain, might pitch himself to Furyk as a player right now, Woods replied with a big smile, "What would be the word? Trending."

ADA

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tioned. The NMSA executive director added that it would take five months for the repair work at the gym to be completed.

"With that, the gym won't be available for any leagues or activities. We already informed sports organizations and other groups early this year about the closure of the facility," Rogolifo said.

Improvements of the various sports facilities on Saipan, particularly those located at the Oleai Sports Complex, are needed as the CNMI is preparing to host the Pacific Mini Games in 2021. Pacific Games Council officials are expected to pay Saipan a visit in the coming years to assess these facilities and gauge the islands' readiness for holding the quadrennial meet.

CNMI

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Today, the CNMI U crew will face Don Bosco Technical College Cebu in the first game at 8am and then will end the round-robin tournament with a collision against Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong at 2pm. Chelsea vs MFC, Tuloy vs LSS, and MFC vs Don Bosco Cebu are the other crucial pairings on Day 3 of the tournament.

Two victories today will ensure the Michiteru Mitacoached squad one of the Top 2 spots in the team standings and a ticket to the finals. A split means the Teen Ayuyus' finals chances will depend on the standings of the other teams.

Meanwhile, Rintaro Miyawaki also scored in the CNMI's 5-1 victory over Tu-

loy in their second game in the opening day. The forward, who had a brace in the Teen Ayuyus' 4-1 triumph over Luen Thai Soccer School last Wednesday, hit the board in the 24th minute of their match against the host off a follow-up from a missed attempt by John Michael Rojas.

Miyawaki's goal came after Joshua Waldo drew first blood for the CNMI in the fourth minute, giving their team a 2-1 halftime lead. Tuloy got its first goal in the 15th minute off a controversial non-offside call.

Razeff Altamirano then made it a 3-1 advantage for the visitors when he also went for a follow up from a corner kick in the 32nd minute. For the Teen Ayuyus' fourth goal, it came from a drive from Kirt Andon, while the fifth and last was courtesy of Kaden Church.

5

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in the doubles for her best performance in the B2 competition. The CNMI bet lost in the first round in doubles and won only one match in the singles in 2015 and 2016.

In the boys draw, Schorr, Song, and Carol's brother, Sean are also part of the small Pacific Oceania group that includes the Solomon Islands'

Graham Mani, American Samoa's Larry Magalasin, Tahiti's Jeremy Guines, and Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy, too.

Schorr is the second highest-ranked Pacific player at No. 1,527 behind Mainguy, who is ranked No. 1,010 in the world. Sean is at No. 2,282, while Song has yet to make it to the world leaderboard. Australia's Rinky Hijikata is the highest-ranked player in the boys singles draw at No. 36.

Schorr, Lee, and Song have been in Fiji for months, training at the ITF/OTF facility there. They competed in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships (both in individual and team events) along with Malika Miyawaki, Maria and Anthony Gregoire, Hyejin Elliot, David Kwon, Seung Jin Paik, Jimin Woo, and Coume Kaga, who are home-bound as the POJC concluded last Wednesday.

CNMI vs Chinese-Taipei in EAFF U15 Boys Tournament 2018

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



CNMI and Chinese-Taipei players line up as they head to the pitch for their game in the East Asian Football Federation U15 Boys Tournament 2018 in China last week.



CNMI Boys U15 National Team captain Taka Borja, fifth left, poses with his counterpart in Chinese-Taipei and game officials.



Daniel Mar Pablo, right, kicks the ball.



Head coach Michiteru Mita gives instructions to Brandon Tenorio.



Taka Borja leaps for a header.



Merrick Toves, second left, beats Chinese-Taipei's Bo-Ying Chen to the ball.



Floyd Muna, second left, gets tangled with Chinese-Taipei Jiun-Nan Lu, while the latter's teammates stay close in the play to provide help defense.



CNMI and Chinese-Taipei players and game officials exchange high-fives after the match.



Nadal leads
money rankings,
Djokovic closes in

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Gray chased in
3rd, as Orioles
upset Yankees

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Ada Gym repairs to start anytime soon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The long overdue repair work at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will begin anytime soon, according to Tony Rogolifo.

Rogolifo, executive director of Northern Marianas Sports Association, which is tasked to manage the facility, told *Saipan Tribune* that he got a call from the Public Assistance Office informing him about the updates on the project.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency coursed through the fund for the Oleai Sports Complex project, including the repair work at the Ada Gym, to PAO, which is under the Office of the Governor. FEMA approved \$505,220 in public assistance funds for the sports facilities damaged by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. PAO had a pre-bid announcement in November 2017 and had another one early this year before proceeding with the actual bidding process in April.

"It took a while for the bidding process to be completed, plus the waiting time for the materials to be shipped here. I got a call from PAO last Monday and they told me the project may start anytime soon,"



The deteriorating condition of the flooring at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium is seen evidently during a game at the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last April.

Rogolifo said.

"There's a lot of things to fix, but they will start first at the gym and worked their way out to the softball and baseball fields," the NMSA official

added.

The entire flooring of the gym will be replaced, while ventilation and roofing will also be fixed. A new PA system will be installed along with a

scoreboard, which has arrived several months ago and has been under NMSA's care.

The Ada Gym last underwent a facelift in 2011 when new bleachers and flooring

were installed. While the bleachers are still in good condition, the flooring is not with bubbles emerging just a little over two years after its placement. Right now, parts of the flooring had already peeled, while line mark-



ings have faded.

Besides having a new flooring, fans will also be replaced, while Rogolifo is hoping they could find more funds to have the Ada Gym air-condi-

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5 to join ITF Juniors tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five CNMI junior players will remain in Fiji for a few more weeks as they will be competing in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2018.

Siblings Sean and Carol Lee, Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, and Conatsu Kaga are included on the acceptance list of the ranking tournament under the ITF Juniors Circuit. The Oceania Closed, which will run from Aug. 14 to 18, is a B2 event that awards 160, 95, and 60 points to the singles champion, finalists, and semifinalists. Thirty, 15, and 7 points are also given to the quarterfinalists and players advancing in the Rounds of 16 and 32, while points as high as 120 can be won in the doubles. A B2 event is the fifth highest-ranking tournament in the ITF Juniors Cir-

cuit (Grand Slam and Youth Olympics are the highest).

Carol and Conatsu are among the 31 players on the acceptance list of the girls singles draw, joining fellow Pacific Oceania bets Saoirse Breen of Fiji, Eleanor Schuster of Samoa, Leylany Ipunesso of New Caledonia, and Zorika Morgan of the Solomon Islands.

New Zealand and Australia players dominated the acceptance list with the former's Valentina Ivanov the highest-ranked player in at the field at No. 104. Carol has the fifth-best ranking at No. 218 and aims for a better showing in her fourth appearance in the tournament.

Last year, Carol made it to the quarterfinals of the singles event after winning her first two matches. She also advanced to the Round of 8

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CNMI needs to win last two matches



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Boys U16 National Team's starting unit against Tuloy gather for a photo before challenging the hosts in the Inaugural Tuloy XO Cup last Wednesday in Alabang, Philippines.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI Boys U16 National

Team is pressed to sweep its last two games in the elimination round of the Inaugural Tuloy XO Cup to make it to the title match this Sunday.

The Teen Ayuyus hold a 2-1 record going into the final day of the elims, missing on their bid for a perfect record after losing to Makati Football Club, 1-4, yesterday at the Tuloy XO Field in Alabang, Philip-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ken Song is among the CNMI players that will be competing in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2018 in Fiji this month.